

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk July 30, 2017

East edition No 775

DEVELOPMENT

£3.2bn resort is pushed back yet again

Latest blow for those hoping for massive jobs boost

ENVIRONMENT

Just who will police clean air push?

Local authorities concern over government's big plans

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Is time to consult about all these consultations?

FOR every big decision, for every big project, you can be assured of one thing - a consultation.

In principle it does, of course, sound like a good, sensible thing to do; you plan to do something which will impact on lots of people's lives and so you all sit down and discuss it to reach compromise for agreement.

But, aside from the rarest of cases, the impact of those consultations is rarely clearly observed. Prompting the fear it is simply paying lip service to the masses but ultimately pushing ahead with whatever scheme they have in mind. It's a bit like a consultation on your job when you know redundancy has long since been decided upon by the powers-that-be.

Of course, some necessary schemes will always have critics. And, as a nation, we are normally adverse to anything which ushers in change - even if the need is apparent.

The Lower Thames Crossing.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

for example, is rotten for all those who live east of Gravesend - but the prospect of it being in Dartford again would be simply ridiculous. Yet a consultation took place despite everyone knowing the outcome.

Don't get me wrong - progress is necessary and relentless and however unfair things may be, the Nimby-approach cannot outweigh the greater good. Just that the parameters of consultations ought to be changed. Currently people feel they genuinely have the power to derail schemes by opposing them at consultation.

Perhaps, instead, they should be called 'tweaking sessions' where, instead, if you have a valid point which the developers can afford (ie it costs next to nothing) you may have a chance of having an impact.

At least that would be a more honest description and keep expectations in check.

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Contents

News

- 05 **Resort plans are delayed**
Opening date for park is now in 2023
- 06 **Teen killed in rail tragedy**
Probe into how 16-year-old died
- 07 **Sheps hotel hit over rats**
Big fine over state of Tunbridge Wells venue
- 09 **Jail for star's stalker**
The BBC's Sara Cox received unpleasant letters from him

- 11 **The clear air challenge**
Local councils told they are to police it
- 12 **Have we all forgotten?**
Authorities challenged on Syrian families
- 14 **How to beat scammers**
Special report that you need to read to avoid popular fraud tricks
- 19 **Expert on exclusions**
Peter Read casts his eyes over the latest figures



PAGE 22 »



PAGE 11 »



PAGE 20 »



PAGE 07 »



PAGE 09 »



PAGE 19 »



PAGE 29 »

- 20 **London 2012, five years on**
But did extravaganza deliver its legacy?
- 22 **Glory for our cricket aces**
How World Cup win fired them to the top
- The Arts**
- 29 **Statue for the seaside**
Striking figure to stand near gallery

- Plus**
- Letters** Page 40
- Images of Kent** Page 41
- Sport** Page 47

HOW TO CONTACT US...

Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Room G46,
The Panorama, 130 Park Street,
Ashford, Kent TN24 8EZ
Editorial: News: 01233 653475
Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 01233 653461
Business: 01233 653461
Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01233 653461
Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk
Distribution: 01233 653470

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Published in Kent and printed by Archant Print, division of Archant Community Media Limited (Co Reg No 19300). Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

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£3.2bn resort faces yet another delay in opening

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

THE £3.2 billion entertainment resort earmarked for the Swanscombe peninsula has suffered yet another setback, with bosses admitting they are now aiming to open in 2023.

Earlier this year, London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH), the developer behind the plans to build the park, set to be one of the most extravagant leisure complexes in the world, said it was confident of submitting a planning application by the end of this year, and the gates would open by 2022.

However, chiefs insist the latest delay, which will see an application submitted instead in the spring of next year, has nothing to do with the departure of Hollywood studio Paramount from the project - that licensing deal was scrapped earlier this year - but rather is down to the complexities of the planning process.

Nevertheless, it comes as a blow to a scheme that has been pushed back several times in recent years.

The developer this week announced it would be holding its final round of public consultation



PLANS: Prior to Paramount pulling out, this is how organisers envisaged the park

events in early 2018 - the fifth stage of an extensive programme of engagement which has already seen over 8,000 people participate.

CEO Humphrey Percy said: "This will be a crucial step towards completing our plans for the world class entertainment resort.

"We have subjected our project to considerable rigour in recent months, transformed it, and in turn are creating an inspirational and deliverable scheme.

"We are delighted with progress on partnership agreements. We plan to build over 3,500 hotel rooms, operated by our new partner, Intercontinental Hotel Group; constructing the majority of the resort and new roads and infrastructure with materials stored at and transported from Port of Tilbury, with whom we have recently signed an agreement.

"We are now in very detailed commercial negotiations regarding

partners, the concepts they are embracing and some of the incredible creative propositions.

"We are encouraged and supported by our local authority partners to take the time to get this right; we have listened to our stakeholders and will now be consulting the public early in 2018 and submitting the Development Consent Order application in Spring of 2018. Our grand opening date is planned for 2023."

Lifesaving equipment stolen from ambulance station for second time

LIFESAVING medical equipment and drugs were stolen from Sheppey Ambulance Station this week - the second time the site has been targeted in just over a month.

The last incident in June followed a spate of thefts across Kent, and in other areas covered by South East Coast Ambulance Service (Secamb) including Surrey and Sussex, and on each occasion, thieves stole vital Lifepaks, which are manually operated defibrillators and diagnostic machines.

Between Tuesday and Wednesday this week, three Lifepaks were taken from Sheppey Ambulance Station along with a number of pouches of prescription-only drugs.

Anyone with information is urged to come forward and ambulance bosses are also asking the public to report any suspicious activity to police immediately.

If anyone discovers any medicine, which could have potentially been discarded by the thieves, they are

urged not to handle it and again to immediately contact police.

Secamb executive director of operations, Joe Garcia, said: "Lives have once again been put at risk as a result of this incident.

"We are working with police following the theft from Sheppey and with police across our region on what appears to be a continued and targeted campaign against the trust.

"We would urge anyone with information whatsoever to contact police immediately."

Ambulance chiefs told us last month: "The main message we need to get out there is how mindless this is.

"It is putting lives at risk, because if we can't respond with the right equipment at the right time, it could have a devastating impact.

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Kent Police on 101 quoting crime reference number 26-0194 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

No Use Empty has brought 5,000 homes back into life

AN award-winning scheme to bring empty homes back into use across the county has hit a major milestone.

No Use Empty, co-ordinated by Kent County Council, has now returned 5,000 homes back into use. It offers interest-free loans to owners to renovate and then sell otherwise abandoned properties.

Programme manager Steve

Grimshaw said: "We have now returned half of the homes we identified as long-term empty when we launched in 2005.

"It is providing a much needed solution to the issue of empty homes and the ongoing housing crisis. We are seeing renewed support from local district councils providing top-up loans to drive forward the initiative."

Government confirms plan to close prison in two years

ROCHESTER Prison will close in 2019 as part of the government's £1.3bn programme to transform the estate, chiefs have confirmed.

Former justice secretary Liz Truss announced earlier this year the Medway jail would be redeveloped as part of a commitment to tackle overcrowding, but timings were still subject to discussion.

Now, prisons minister Sam Gyimah has confirmed the site will close in two years' time, to ensure officers and staff will be given the necessary support and advice.

A full public consultation, in which the Rochester community will be engaged, will take place next year, with local MP Kelly Tolhurst vowing to ensure there are minimal negative impacts.



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Gang behind £25m cannabis factory are jailed

AN organised crime gang behind a multi-million pound conspiracy to cultivate 'industrial amounts' of cannabis were this week jailed following trial at the Old Bailey.

The 14 offenders grew the plants across Kent and Norfolk between 2013 and 2015. Kent sites included Rochester, Gravesend and Sittingbourne. In total police

found 16,428 plants producing a yearly yield of £25m.

Among them were men from Paddock Wood, Yalding, Margate, Gillingham and Bromley.

Detective inspector James Derham said: "This was a highly organised and prolific conspiracy to produce and sell cannabis on an industrial scale."

One other man will be sentenced in September.

Fundraiser launched for 'beautiful angel', 16, electrocuted on tracks

By Tom Pyman

b p1

FRIENDS of a 16-year-old girl who died after being electrocuted on the tracks at Herne Bay station have launched a fundraising page to give her "the most memorable, unforgettable and beautiful send off that she deserves".

Officers from British Transport Police were called to the station shortly before 7am on Wednesday and attended alongside paramedics from the South East Coast Ambulance Service, where Taiyah Pebbles was pronounced dead after sustaining serious injuries believed to be caused by the live rail.

Her death is being treated as unexplained whilst officers make enquiries into the circumstances leading to her receiving these injuries.

A post mortem examination was due to take place on Friday.

Friends took to social media to pay tribute to Taiyah, describing her as "a beautiful angel" and a crowd-



TRAGIC: Taiyah Pebbles

funding page has been set up with the aim of raising £500 for her funeral.

DCI Paul Langley from British Transport Police, said: "Our thoughts are with the family and

friends of this young girl as they try to come to terms with this awful news."

"We have deployed specially trained officers to the family to provide them with support.

"Understandably the family are now desperate for answers and my officers are focused on understanding how this girl came to be on the tracks.

"What we know so far is that the girl was with a group of friends near the station shortly before 11pm [on Tuesday]. Sometime between then and 7am [Wednesday] she came to receive these injuries.

"Therefore, I would be looking to speak with anyone who might have been near to Herne Bay station during this period. Your information might prove vital in our enquiries."

Anyone with any information is asked to get in touch by sending a text to 61016 or by calling 0800 40 50 40 quoting reference 82 of 26/07/2017.

The fundraising page can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/2tPtpog>.



ATTRACTION: The artwork in Dover

Could Banksy building turn into a gallery?

CALLS are growing for Dover District Council to seize the building which is home to a piece by coveted street artist Banksy and transform the site into an art gallery capable of rivaling Margate's Turner Contemporary.

Labour councillor Nathaniel Richards this week launched a petition urging the town hall to use compulsory purchase order (CPO) powers in order to safeguard the future of the former Castle Amusements building, which is due to be demolished.

Property owners the Godden family, which also owned the building upon which Banksy daubed his previous Kent work - Art Buff in Folkestone - said the piece, which depicts a workman on a ladder chipping away at one of the 12 stars on the European Union flag, is likely to be removed and sold.

Clr Richards told KoS: "We are potentially missing a very good opportunity to take advantage of something unique that has been gifted to Dover.

"It's going to draw a hell of a lot of tourists and its positioning is perfect - it's the first thing you see when you come off the motorway."

The petition, which so far has more than 350 signatures, is available to view at <http://bit.ly/2tPDQbt>

Wells pulls out of race to be new Ukip leader

CHRIS Wells has pulled out of the race to become the next leader of Ukip nationally, insisting "it would not be sensible" to divide time between the role and his position as leader of Thanet District Council.

Nigel Farage announced he would not be vying for the spot once again - for now at least - after Paul Nuttall stepped down following a disastrous campaign for the party in the general election in which it failed to win a single seat, and an equally bad Kent County Council election, in which its representation at County Hall was completely wiped out.

Clr Wells said: "Firstly, it is important that someone from the moderate wing of the party becomes our next leader.

"Secondly, my first responsibility as the leader of Ukip's only district council still requires and deserves considerable time and attention, particularly in the months between this summer and the early part of next year."

Father charged with caravan park murder

A 63-year-old man from Herne Bay has appeared in court accused of murdering his 19-year-old daughter Olivia Kray and trying to murder his ex-partner.

Police and ambulance crews were summoned to a caravan park in Canterbury Road following a report of a serious assault at around 2pm last Friday.

Miss Kray was pronounced dead at the scene at Westlands Caravan Park in Herne Common. She had been strangled.

Last Saturday, detectives charged Richard Kray, 63, from Canterbury Road with the murder of Miss Kray.

He has also been charged with an attempted murder against a second woman earlier in the day at an address in Herne Bay.

He appeared via video link at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday. He will appear again in October to enter a plea to the charges with the case pencilled in to begin in January.

Due to previous contact between victims and police, Kent Police has referred the case to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Rail satisfaction rises but still among worst

KENT'S rail services are still among the poorest in the country, despite a rise in passenger satisfaction, according to a new report.

Southeastern saw overall satisfaction increase to 81 per cent in Transport Focus' spring survey, up some ten per cent, which is the biggest improvement among those surveyed.

However, only Great Northern, Thameslink and Southern, which runs trains to Ashford and Tonbridge, had a lower rating, and nine per cent of the 1,528 Southeastern passengers asked said they were dissatisfied or felt it was a poor service.

Nevertheless, the firm is taking the reaction as positive news, with Southeastern's managing director, David Statham, saying: "We're really pleased that passenger satisfaction has significantly improved and eight in 10 of our passengers are satisfied with our service.

"This a direct result of the hard work and commitment of our employees who take care of our passengers' needs day in and day out."

Shepherd Neame fined £160k in row over rat-infested hotel

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

BRITAIN's oldest brewer has been slapped with a fine after failing to deal with a rat infestation at a hotel in Tunbridge Wells.

Faversham-based Shepherd Neame appeared in court in Medway on Tuesday and pleaded guilty to four charges of food hygiene offences at the Royal Wells Hotel after action was taken by the borough council.

In June 2016 a member of the council's environmental health food team visited the hotel to follow up on a complaint received about rodents in the kitchen.

During this and subsequent visits over the following days, officers identified a widespread rat infestation and other failings that posed a risk to the safety of the food being served.

The problems were so serious the council's opinion was that due to the imminent risk to health at the hotel in Mount Ephraim, the premises should be closed with immediate effect.

In response, Shepherd Neame voluntarily closed the premises.

The council's investigation revealed the hotel failed to escalate its response to pest proofing advice given by its contracted pest control agency and failed to comply with its



SLAMMED: Britain's oldest brewer has apologised and accepted the fine

food safety management system.

In court, they were fined £160,000 and had costs of £9,988 awarded against them.

A spokesperson for Shepherd Neame said: "We wholly accept this ruling. This incident should not have happened and we have done everything within our power to ensure it will not happen again."

"We voluntarily and immediately closed the kitchen and since the incident in June 2016 have carried out all necessary remedial work to the site."

"We have undertaken a thorough review of our systems and processes and the hotel also has a new management team."

"We have a hitherto unblemished hygiene record upon which we pride ourselves and which makes this incident all the more painful as a consequence."

"However, the Royal Wells has subsequently been rated satisfactory and we remain committed to working with the council to deliver the highest standards of customer experience."

£500k cash seized from Channel Tunnel

POLICE have launched an investigation after £500,000 in cash was found in a secret compartment of a van at the Channel Tunnel.

Officers seized the cash - euros and sterling - after searching the white Mercedes Sprinter shortly before 1pm last Friday.

Two men aged 29 and 39, both from Liverpool, were arrested on suspicion of money laundering but have since been released from custody.

Scenic Railway back ahead of schedule

DREAMLAND's Scenic Railway is back on track after essential maintenance finished ahead of schedule.

The work was due to take place from Monday through to Friday to replace a section of the rope on one of the ride's lift hills but began welcoming thrillseekers a day early.

Dead body identified

A BODY found in the Cobham Woods area of Medway was confirmed on Friday as that of missing man Adam Jarvis.

Mr Jarvis, 40, had last been seen at his home in Rochester on July 20, prompting several public appeals by police for information.

His death is not being treated as suspicious and a report is now being prepared for the coroner.

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£30m electricity pledge set to power 15,000 city homes

A £30 million investment pledge in new electricity sub stations and connections has been made by bosses behind the Ebbsfleet garden city, to help power the 15,000-home development.

The commitment by Ebbsfleet Development Corporation is the first time a public body has invested in this way to help unlock development.

While chiefs say the deal was vital to secure the continued growth of the city in north Kent, the money will be claimed back through an agreement reached with UK Power Networks (UKPN) when developers pay for the proportion of electricity they need.

Paul Spooner, interim chief executive of Ebbsfleet Development Corporation said: "This is the first time



a development corporation has been able to successfully forward fund electricity which is crucial because our private developer partners know the infrastructure will be there and ready as they continue to

build at pace. It also future-proofs the garden city by providing enough supply not only for 15,000 households but for our new city centre, unlocking land to investors for homes and businesses."

Ban for teacher who said 'very inappropriate' joke

A FORMER Kent teacher, who admitted leading pupils by the hand and saying "w*** the crank" in a crude classroom joke, has been banned from the profession.

Roger Ferguson, 60, a design and technology teacher and director of learning at Dartford Science and Technology College, was faced with a number of allegations at a professional conduct panel hearing earlier this month.

In evidence, a pupil said that once in 2015-2016, she was using a pillar drill during an after-school lesson when Mr Ferguson told her a joke about a time when he was younger on a boat, which involved saying "w*** the crank".

The teacher did not attend the hearing but appeared to

admit to what was described by the panel as "a very inappropriate statement to say to a 14 to 15 year old female pupil" in written representations.

Mr Ferguson was also found to have hugged a student, led them by the hand, told an autistic girl with motor difficulties that she had enough muscle to complete a task and said "luv ya" to a pupil.

A decision was made by Alan Meyrick, on behalf of the education secretary, Justine Greening, who concluded that Mr Ferguson is prohibited from teaching indefinitely and cannot teach in any school, sixth form college, relevant youth accommodation or children's home in England.

The school declined to comment when contacted.

Movies on the M20

KENT Police have released video footage of officers stopping and fining a lorry driver they caught watching a movie on the M20.

He was one of dozens of drivers who were stopped, fined, given points or educational advice in a special roads policing operation.

Visit kentnews.co.uk to watch the video.

KCC wins military medal

KENT County Council has been recognised for supporting military personnel.

It has been awarded the Ministry of Defence Employers Recognition silver award. Councillor Richard Long said KCC "strongly supports the employment of service leavers and veterans".

Smart technology bid

PLANS to reinvent Medway as a 'smart city' have accelerated after council chiefs bid for government cash to improve infrastructure on the A2. Bosses want to introduce smart technology infrastructure between Strood and Rainham to reduce journey time and ease congestion.

Biker's family tribute

A MOTORCYCLIST killed in Tenterden Road, Biddenden, last Friday has been named as Brian Yeo, 71, from Rochester.

A statement from his family said: "He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather who died doing the thing he loved most - riding his pride and joy, his motorcycle."

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BOUVERIE PLACE

Star's stalker is sent down

By Tom Pugh

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CONVICTED paedophile from Chatham who stalked BBC Radio 2 DJ Sara Cox by sending her disturbing letters and hoarded indecent images of children has been sentenced to 16 months in jail.

Anthony Collins, 50, pleaded guilty to harassment relating to notes posted to the 42-year-old Bolton-born host of The Great Pottery Throw Down on BBC Two.

Maidstone Crown Court heard Collins bought her address details online for £17 and sent her letters handwritten in felt-tip pen along with a printed photo of Cox, referred to by her married name Cyzer.

Prosecutor Mary Jacobson said Ms Cox received an envelope on January 24 containing two letters in which Collins wrote that he was lonely, psychologically disturbed and had a long criminal history.

He added he was poor, living unhappily in a bedsit and he asked Cox to invite him to BBC Radio 2's studios, saying she was "lovely, warm, kind and sexy".

On February 7, Cox's husband also received a handwritten letter at his workplace, along with a picture of his celebrity wife holding a child, and a diagram with the words "Cancer



STALKED: BBC presenter Sara Cox was sent distributing letters by Anthony Collins

Analysis" in capital letters.

Ms Jacobson said: "Needless to say that when Ms Cox found out her husband had received a letter she was immediately much more scared, as she put it, and the matter was reported to the police the next day."

When Collins was arrested on February 10, police found indecent images of girls aged four to 15 in Collins'

bedside table drawers.

Officers also discovered a fake BBC visitor's pass, a Google map print out of Ms Cox's sister's work address and more unposted letters, as well as pictures and press cuttings, Ms Jacobson said.

In addition to admitting harassment, Collins, of Afghan Road, pleaded guilty at North Kent Magistrates' Court to two counts of possessing in-

decent images and two counts of making indecent images of children.

The court was told Collins had a criminal history that included an 18-month jail term for poisoning a 13-year-old girl he had befriended in a bid to sedate her and have sex with her.

In sentencing, the judge put in place a sexual harm prevention order and issued a restraining order

'Terror' arrest teen released

A 16-year-old boy from Kent, arrested at Stansted Airport last weekend on suspicion of terrorism offences, has now been released without charge.

The arrest was made by officers on Sunday.

The boy, understood to be from the county, who was due on a flight leaving the UK, was arrested around 4pm on suspicion of collection of information which is likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism.

An investigation is still ongoing into the case.

Yo! Sushi site opens in city

JAPANESE restaurant Yo! Sushi opens its first ever site in Canterbury on Wednesday.

Sited close to the cathedral, the popular chain's nearest other Kent outlet had been in Bluewater.

Robin Rowland, CEO of the chain said: "We're really excited to be bringing a taste of authentic Japanese street food in Canterbury. We hope visitors and locals enjoy what we have to offer."

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Alternatives key in drive to clean up roads and air

Our local councils are set to be tasked with coming up with plans to lower congestion and pollution in their areas

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

PROPOSALS to allow local authorities to impose charges on the dirtiest vehicles in pollution hotspots will not work if motorists aren't given alternatives, a council leader claims.

The government unveiled a clean air strategy this week, within which was a £255 million fund to help town halls crack down on pollution and congestion in busy areas.

Environment secretary Michael Gove said he wanted to see councils come up with "imaginative solutions" but many motoring figures have accused ministers of "passing the buck" to local authorities.

Canterbury City Council leader Simon Cook told KoS he was pleased to see the government providing a steer, but said there would need to be further investment in road infrastructure for such ideas to work.

"The key thing is you have to make sure there are alternatives," he said.

"The congestion charge in London works perfectly well because it's very easy to circumvent the congestion

zone.

"The trouble we have in Canterbury is the problem area is the ring-road, and if you are going from side to side you're obliged to use the ring-road, unless you want to make a huge diversion, which isn't good for the environment, either.

"It will be a much more viable idea if we have an eastern bypass to circumvent the city centre."

A clean air fund will be set out for councils to bid for money to introduce new measures such as changing road layouts to cut congestion, reducing idling vehicles, new park and ride services, concessionary travel schemes and improving bus fleets.

Measures would be funded by taxes on new diesel cars alongside existing departmental budgets, the plans say.

Canterbury operates a successful park and ride scheme but Cllr Cook acknowledges it is not always convenient for residents.

"I'm conscious that it's not for everybody, and we try very hard to offer the best mix of parking solutions.

"The proposals make perfect sense, but they need to be coupled with measures so people are not being charged for having no alternative."



CHARGES: Canterbury chiefs are concerned introducing charging zones could spell problems

Also included in the government's plans is a proposal to end sales of new diesel and petrol vehicles by 2040, though many motoring experts slammed the idea.

The proposed ban follows similar plans announced in France this month and amid increasing signs that the shift to electric vehicles is accelerating.

However, FairFuelUK, which lobbies ministers for better deals for drivers and has its headquarters in Cranbrook, argues it would be better to phase in new fuel technologies to work effectively and be supported, without a target date to terminate diesel and petrol.

Founder Howard Cox said: "We have practical proven ways to reduce

emissions available now.

"Why has Michael Gove ignored these in favour of a draconian policy that will hit small businesses and low-income families the hardest?

"The energy supply infrastructure and the National Grid will disintegrate in a breakneck move to nascent electric technology which will guarantee to cripple the economy."

Motoring journalist and lead spokesman for the campaign, Quentin Willson, added: "So by 2040 no fuel stations no garage repairs no car parts suppliers and 15m diesels scrapped? The cost will be trillions."

The government was ordered to produce new plans to tackle illegal levels of harmful pollutant nitrogen dioxide after the courts agreed with environmental campaigners that a previous set of plans were insufficient to meet EU pollution limits.

Despite government efforts to delay publication of the plans until after the general election, ministers were forced to set out the draft plans in May, with the final measures due by July 31.

Cllr Cook added: "Overall, this gives a massive signal and will let people start to think about the future.

"We fully acknowledge we have a problem with air quality and electric cars will help.

"I have no doubt my next car will be electric and in ten years they will cost much the same as a conventional vehicle.

"It's a very long time away but I think it's a good thing and it's great to see the government giving a steer on this."

Some environmental campaigners have had their calls for government-funded and mandated clean air zones, including charges, backed up by an assessment published along-

side the draft plans which suggested they were the most effective measures to tackle nitrogen dioxide, much of which comes from diesel vehicles.

Pressed on the issue, Mr Gove said: "I don't believe that it is necessary to bring in charging but we will work with local authorities in order to determine what the best approach is.

"If a local authority believes that charging is necessary in order to secure compliance then we'll work to ensure that plan be implemented appropriately, but, on the evidence I've seen, while charging could bring local authorities in to compliance with the law, it's not necessary."

The former justice secretary described charging as a "blunt instrument", adding he would prefer a "series of surgical interventions" as they are "fairer" to drivers and "likely to be more effective, more quickly".

A government spokesman added: "Poor air quality is the biggest environmental risk to public health in the UK and this government is determined to take strong action in the shortest time possible.

"That is why we are providing councils with new funding to accelerate development of local plans, as part of an ambitious £3 billion programme to clean up dirty air around our roads.

"Our plan to deal with dirty diesels will help councils clean up emissions hotspots - often a single road - through common sense measures which do not unfairly penalise ordinary working people.

"Diesel drivers are not to blame and, to help them switch to cleaner vehicles, the government will consult on a targeted scrappage scheme, one of a number of measures to support motorists affected by local plans."



DIRTY: Improved air quality should result from a ban on new petrol and diesel cars by 2040



SAFE: Having left their homeland during the civil war, many families are hoping the UK - and Kent - offers them safety and the chance to start a new life

Councils urged not to turn their back on families fleeing Syria

At the height of the crisis two years ago, the government pledged to take in 20,000 refugees from Syria yet some authorities in Kent have so far taken none at all. We look at the issue which isn't going away

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

PLANS to welcome 20,000 refugees from the Middle East by 2020 are still "achievable", a charity claims, despite some councils in Kent having not settled any almost two years after the scheme was launched.

Former PM David Cameron announced an extension of the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) in September 2015, insisting the country had to "live up to its moral responsibility", as thousands were forced out of their homes in the midst of a bitter civil war.

Local authorities were encouraged to volunteer to take some of the refugees over a five year period to help meet that target, but a Home Affairs Select Committee report published last year insisted more town halls needed to "pull their weight" and suggested there was "scant evidence" that the government would be able meet its commitment.

Kent, which is comprised of 13 district and borough councils, as well as the county council, has been largely praised for its response to the migrant crisis which saw hundreds of unaccompanied asylum seeking children arrive in Folkestone and Dover from the Calais camp known as 'the Jungle'.

Indeed, KCC's children's services were rated 'good' in an Ofsted report published last month - a remarkable turnaround from 2010 when its services were deemed 'inadequate'.

However, in terms of Syrian refugees under the resettlement scheme, the latest figures released by the Home Office, up to March 2017, show that two councils are yet to take any, despite commitments to do so.

Gravesham Borough Council told us it had committed to house five families over the five years, and while bosses confirmed they fully intended to resettle them at some stage before the deadline, it could not confirm exactly when that would be.

Meanwhile, Lin Fairbrass, deputy leader of Thanet District Council and cabinet member for community services said: "It is still Thanet District Council's position that we want to assist with the programme.

"We have had great difficulty in securing suitable accommodation which is why things are taking a long time, but we have committed to resettle up to eight households."

Despite the seemingly slow progress being made in Gravesham and Thanet, the Refugee Action charity is generally pleased by the reaction of local authorities and is confident the programme is on track to meet the former prime minister's target.

Head of resettlement, Louise Calvey, said: "The government's pledge to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020 is achievable and we're seeing good progress being made.

"It's great to see communities all over the country choosing to welcome refugees to their areas.

"However, there is no end in sight to the war in Syria or the long-running conflicts and chronic instability affecting people in many other parts of the

world.

"In the middle of the worst refugee crisis on record, we have a moral and a legal duty to protect more people from Syrian and other war-torn countries."

Sevenoaks District Council said from the outset it would not be taking any, due to a lack of suitable resources, but council chiefs did agree in March to work with West Kent Housing Association to let a six bedroom adapted property to a refugee family in Eynsford.

Meanwhile, Medway Council has stuck to its agreed position of not taking refugees as part of the scheme.

Ashford Borough Council, however, has taken the lead on the project, pledging to take in some 250 people by 2020, with dozens already having arrived since the start of the scheme, the most recent of which being a family of five who were housed near Pluckley last month.

A council spokesperson told us: "Ashford has now proudly welcomed 13 families to the borough totalling 62 people of which 29 are children.

"The families have been housed in private rented accommodation across the borough.

"More families will arrive as suitable properties are identified to provide them with homes.

"We are proud to be in a position where we can offer assistance to those who have experienced significant and extreme trauma as a result of the conflict in Syria.

"We want to welcome these vulnerable families to our borough and integrate them into our communities quickly, offering them support so that

they settle and become part of their new communities as quickly as possible."

Elsewhere in the county, Canterbury and Dartford have taken seven refugees each, Dover has taken 10, Maidstone six, Shepway 15, Tonbridge five and Tunbridge Wells 23, according to the Home Office.

This week, a petition was put to Swale Borough Council calling on the local authority to "offer more help to refugees living in awful conditions on our doorstep in Calais and Dunkirk".

Faversham and Villages Refugee Solidarity Group added it believes Swale's current offer to help only 10 Syrian refugee families in five years is "totally inadequate".

A report presented to councillors clarified that the resettlement schemes do not operate in Calais and Dunkirk, but rather neighbouring countries to Syria, such as Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey.

Therefore, bosses said, any pledge to increase Swale's commitment to Syrian families on the SVPRS programme would have no impact on the situation in Calais and Dunkirk.

The report confirmed the council had housed two Syrian families and added: "We are continuously searching for affordable properties within Swale to meet our commitment, however this search is difficult as can be evidenced by the number of Swale families who are in temporary accommodation as there is a shortage of affordable rental accommodation within Swale.

"We are in ongoing discussions with landlords concerning appropri-

ate properties that may become available and would urge any landlord with such a property to contact us urgently."

Last week, the government announced a £1m funding pot to help community groups support refugees - 12 months after the sponsorship scheme was launched by home secretary Amber Rudd and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby - over which 53 refugees have been welcomed by 10 groups.

Sponsors, including charities, faith groups and churches, provide housing for the refugee families, as well as helping them to integrate into life in the UK, access medical and social services, arranging English language tuition and supporting them towards employment and self-sufficiency.

The archbishop said: "Last year we welcomed a family of Syrian refugees to live with us here at Lambeth Palace through the community sponsorship scheme.

"It has been an absolute privilege and joy to get to know this special family over the last year as we've supported them to start a new life in the UK. They have been a blessing to us in so many ways.

"It's amazing to think that we are celebrating the one year anniversary of the scheme.

"In whatever way you can, I would encourage everyone to get involved with community sponsorship and support refugees. It is truly a life-changing experience."

Requests by KoS to speak to some of the refugees housed by local councils were declined.

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Avoid cunning tricks of the billion-pound scam market

We are being hit by threats to dupe us out of our money more than ever, due to the explosion in internet use. And the scammers are getting more and more sophisticated. So what can you do to avoid falling victim to the fraudsters?

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WITH police under increasing pressure and our lives now dominated by an online environment where we do everything from banking to shopping on our connected devices, the unscrupulous have been more sophisticated in their approach.

Scams are rarely out of the news and our need to be vigilant never higher, with the county council saying this week you are 20 times more likely to be tricked out of cash online than robbed in the street.

And often it is the most vulnerable in society who fall victim.

From clever fake emails claiming to be from our bank or the government to phone calls from those masquerading as the police, we have never had to have our wits about us so much.

The one familiar theme is that scammers are trying to do just one thing - trick you out of getting hold of your money.

In April this year alone, Kent County Council's public protection unit says it re-

ceived over 225 reports from those living in the county that they had lost money to cybercrime - totalling some £1.1 million.

And that figure is thought to be just the tip of an iceberg with many too embarrassed to admit to friends and family they have been duped.

Steve Rock, head of Kent's Trading Standards, said: "Scams are an ongoing and increasing problem for our communities, causing somewhere between £5-10 billion in consumer detriment each year.

"Anyone can be the victim of a scam yet it is the elderly and vulnerable who are often systematically targeted by scammers. On average scam victims lose about £1,000, individual losses can be significantly greater including their entire life savings and in some cases even their homes.

"Scams come in many forms from fake websites, to phishing emails, from bogus prize draws to unwanted telephone sales, to doorstep rogue traders, all are designed to get as much money as possible into the criminals pockets, and, once they have identified a victim, keep doing it until the money runs out."

July is Scams Awareness Month, a campaign spearheaded by Citizens Advice and Trading Standards.





PENSION CON

RECENT changes by the government to allow people to access their pension pots from the age of 55 have sparked a host of new scams to be aware of.

Another common financial scam is one where criminals offer investments which promise great rewards but in fact offer little or no return.

In April, Kent residents lost over £470,000 to investment and pension scams with one victim losing over £400,000 of their UK pension when a scammer convinced them to reinvest it in an international fund which later went into administration.

Experts warn companies that offer a 'loan', 'saving advance' or a 'cashback' from your pension, or talk about new investment techniques should be treated with caution, as should offers of 'pension reviews' or offers to invest in stocks and shares in wine, jewellery, carbon credits or land with rates of return that seem too good to be true. The scammers may call you several times and may even have details of previous investments you've made.

And, of course, always steer clear of pyramid investment schemes where you are asked for a fee to join and then told to recruit friends and family in order to get a return.

It wants to give consumers the skills and confidence to identify scams, share their experiences, and take action by reporting any suspicious activity.

Kent County Council is taking

part in the month-long campaign.

One woman in Maidstone lost £25,000 to a smooth-talking computer conman who convinced her that her laptop was infested with viruses.

The woman, who does not want to be named, said: "I had a call from someone who said they were with my internet provider.

"He persuaded me that my laptop was in a serious state which was af-

fecting the internet and insisted it was down to me to pay for repairs over the phone.

"I agreed, stupidly I now know,

■ Continued on page 16



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and in the end I had transferred almost £25,000 to a bank account which turned out to be abroad somewhere.

"Because I had moved the money myself, the bank said there was nothing they could do, and my internet company wasn't interested as the caller was not one of their staff. It was a complete scam, and I have been so depressed about it ever since. People need to be warned."

The KCC intervention team says it has so far prevented a loss of over £50,000 to victims.

Superintendent Tim Cook of Kent Police said: "While fraud and cyber crime often affect the most vulnerable in society, it is important to remember that anyone can become a target."

"We are therefore committed to keeping abreast of the latest scams so we can help raise awareness and prevent people from falling victim to these harmful offences."

"Earlier this year we launched a new cyber crime unit in response to the growing threat from computer crime, and one of its responsibilities is to gather intelligence and stay up to date with the latest viruses and scams."

The police say anyone suspecting they are a victim of a scam should call its fraud hotline on 0300 123 2040. Or visit actionfraud.police.uk for more information about the latest scams.

To join the fight against scams visit friendsagainstsams.org.uk and for support of scam victims, call Citizens Advice on 03454 040506.

TOP TRICKS USED BY SCAMMERS

EMAIL

We've all received the promise of money from a Nigerian prince, but email scams are far more sophisticated than that these days. From replicating your bank's official emails (be suspicious of any where you are referred to as 'Dear Customer' rather than your name) it's often only when looking carefully at email addresses or hovering over the links contained within the emails, you'll notice you're not being directed to the bank's website.

The same can be applied to the likes of emails from Amazon, Apple or PayPal, asking you to re-enter your security details. If in any doubt whatsoever, enter the correct address in your internet browser - not via the links in the email - and log in to your account to check all is OK, and then report the email to the company involved.

TELEPHONE

These are growing and becoming more sophisticated. From callers claiming to be from Microsoft and detecting a fault on your PC (the company never genuinely does this), to someone claiming to be from your bank and requesting the return of your debit card by a courier being sent to your door (again, not something they would do), be alert at all times and never, under any circumstances, give out your security details over the phone. Once again, if in any doubt, put the phone down, find a proper phone

number for the organisation involved from their official site or correspondence, and ring them direct. If it's legitimate they won't mind. If it's a con you'll be alerting them to the problem.

There is one particularly audacious scam which continues to dupe many. Victims get a phone call from their 'bank' warning of a problem, and advising them to immediately phone back using the number the customer already has to ensure the caller is genuine.

But the caller has not disconnected the phone, and the caller dials their bank number and is 'answered' by the person who made the call in the first place. A whole charade then takes place which culminates with PINs, card numbers, and bank account details being divulged. In some cases, the scammer will have someone in the area dressed as a police officer to pick up 'compromised' bank and credit cards. If this happens to you, ensure you wait hours before making the call and ensure there is a dial tone. Also, banks will never ask for your full bank details.

ONLINE

We all know the dangers that lurk online. But it's often worth being extra careful - especially if clicking on links in emails or from message boards and so on.

So-called 'phishing' websites look like legitimate sites that are designed to trick you into giving

personal and financial information, pay for a service you could get cheaper or for free or buy counterfeit goods you thought were genuine. Once again, remember the key rules - if in doubt manually enter the official site's web address in a separate browser window and remember that if a deal looks simply too good to be true, it almost certainly is.

POSTAL

It's a tried and tested method, but for the vulnerable in our society, a direct letter through the door can still prise open the wallet of the unsuspecting victim.

And it's still the old favourites which keep delivering the crooks their ill-gotten gains. From claims of lottery wins and competitions prizes, to pyramid schemes and even psychics claiming to know something about your future, these are designed with one mission only - to deceive you out of your money. Keep any eye out on those who may fall victim too as they may not realise it at first.

ONLINE DATING

Everyone, however old they may be, wants to find love. And the scammers know it. From impersonating men and women from across the world and suggesting funds be sent to enable them to travel to visit or to help them out of a difficult situation, if people are asking for money - especially if you've never

met them - assume they may not be quite as they seem and politely decline. If they like you that much they'll no doubt understand.

MOBILES

Most people have a smart phone these days and the numbers for all phones follow a general sequence, so sending out millions of so-called messages is relatively simple.

After all, if you sent out a million messages claiming to need vital personal information sent by text, then if just one per cent respond the chances are the scammers will find themselves in the money.

These messages generally carry a fake warning about some sort of social media account being compromised and the victim needs to call their bank on the number given. The scammer is again after bank details. Simple advice - if in any doubt, ring your bank on a number you know to be correct and ask them.

THE DOORSTEP

Bogus callers have been plying their trade for decades and will no doubt continue to do so - especially if they perceive the person at the address may be elderly and thus more vulnerable.

From everything from promising to carry out essential repairs to your property, to getting you to sign up for a direct debit for service you haven't asked for, be alert and if in doubt simple ask them, politely, to leave.

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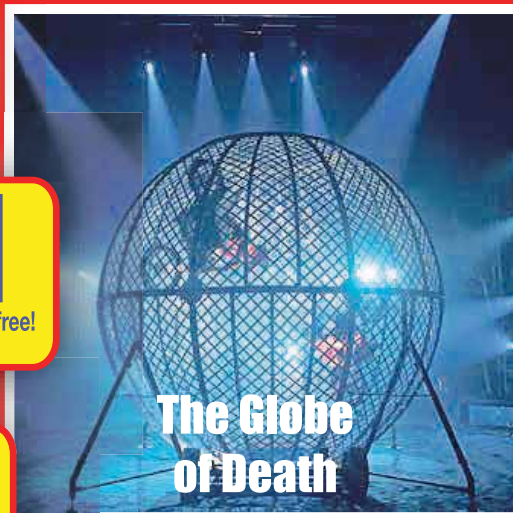


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Why is there such a sharp rise in the number of school exclusions?

Former Gravesend head teacher Peter Read takes a look at the worrying rise in the number of pupils being excluded from our schools and the differences in approach by authorities in the county

IN 2009-10, Kent schools permanently excluded 126 pupils, rising to 210 two years later, but falling every year since then, to a low of 58 in 2015-16.

Over the same period Medway school exclusions rose from just three pupils excluded to an appalling and record figure of 81 in 2015-16, up 35 per cent on 2014-15.

This is the highest exclusion rate in the south east of England, with the secondary school exclusion rate being over twice as large as any other local authority.

Nationally, Medway is joint seventh worst in the country for permanent exclusions.

Further, the average number of days of fixed term exclusion per Medway pupil was 7.3 days, the highest figure in the country.

In both local authorities, the number of families 'choosing' Elective Home Education (EHE) is astonishingly high, with Medway seeing an incredible rise in families taking their children out of school, soaring from 38 to 377 in two years.

For some reason, Medway Council is desperately trying to hide the identities of the schools where the worst problems exist.

So just what are the reasons for the

stark contrast in outcomes in the two local authorities?

Government policy is to reduce the number of children excluded from schools, with expulsion used only as a last resort.

Back in 2011, I launched a campaign in conjunction with Kent on Sunday to see the number of Kent permanent exclusions reduced from its place at the top of the national figures, including 41 SEN statemented pupils permanently excluded, 20 per cent of the total, 19 of whom were from primary schools.

Paul Carter, leader of KCC, pitched in with a particular interest in SEN statemented children.

Under his leadership KCC set a target of reducing permanent exclusions to less than 50, with a proportional reduction in exclusions of statemented children, by developing strategies to work with all schools.

Since then the county has introduced its inclusion and attendance advisory service which monitors school exclusions and provides challenge, advice and support to schools to reduce exclusions, coming close to meeting both targets, with 14 statemented pupils excluded in 2015-16.

Just six schools permanently excluded five or more pupils in one of the two years up to July 2016: Ebbsfleet Academy (8); Folkestone Academy (7); High Weald Academy, Knole Academy, New Line Learning Academy, and Salmestone Primary Academy all with five.

However, it is fair to say that not all academies are in tune with the county strategy, and some use other strategies to 'lose' unwanted pupils.

Earlier this year, the national schools chief inspector identified that some schools were putting pressure on parents to 'choose' EHE to get their children off their books before GCSEs to improve performance in league tables.

Schools are prohibited by law to encourage the option of EHE.

Although government does not collect figures for EHE, in 2013-14 Kent had by far the highest national figure for children going down this route, at 1,112, nearly twice the next largest figure of 593 in Essex.

For 2015-16, the Kent figure was still extremely high at 987 new cases.

EHE is popular amongst a number of educated families, who are confident they can offer a better education than school, or the particular school they have been offered.

This does not explain the loss of 10 or more pupils from 13 Kent secondary schools in the year leading up to GCSE registration, many serving socially deprived areas.

This list is headed up by Orchards Academy that saw 16 pupils leave in the year before GCSEs, followed by Ebbsfleet and Oasis Isle of Sheppey academies.

There is now a thriving island private tuition industry springing up to cater for some of these children as an alternative to school.

Because Kent follows the rules on Freedom of Information requests, I am able to identify the movement of pupils

caused by exclusion or threat of exclusion.

However, the situation in Medway is very different, as the authority is refusing to provide details, although there has been no problem in previous years.

However, the Medway SEND [special educational need or disability] and inclusion strategy document for 2016-2020 records that: "In the year 2013-14, 70 children and young people were permanently excluded from a Medway school. This exclusion rate, 0.16 per cent of the state-funded school age population, is the highest percentage bar one other authority...the average number of days of fixed term exclusion per Medway pupil was 7.37 days: the highest in England".

Unfortunately, although this is described as a strategy document it contains no recommendations whatsoever as to how to improve matters and the figures have only got worse.

What we do know is the data in the introduction above, making Medway one of the worst local authorities in the country for exclusions, with more pupils permanently excluded than in Kent, which has six times as many children.

This is a problem that has been building for some years as demonstrated by the 2013-14 figures.

Medway had 377 children transferring to EHE in 2015-16, again proportionally far higher than Kent, a truly astonishing ten times as many over the two years since 2013-14 when there were just 38.

Of course, some may argue that these young people get what they deserve and should be flung out on the streets or subject to punitive regimes.

Many will have troubled back-

grounds or medical conditions (the proportion of young people with autism who are excluded is far too high), but other children in the class have a right to be able to learn without interruption, and the main cause for exclusion in both Kent and Medway (over a third in Medway schools), is persistent disruptive behaviour.

Local authorities become responsible for educating these pupils, to try and avoid them become a long-term cost to society but every one who drops out of school with no genuine provision made is at risk of becoming a far greater cost to society through their later behaviour.

What this data shows is a very different approach to handling pupils at risk of exclusion in Kent and Medway.

KCC has worked out a range of strategies including early intervention to reduce that risk, working with maintained schools and academies, although some individual schools are still happy simply to pass the problem onto someone else.

Medway's strategy document, having identified it has one of the worst problems in the country, then offers no way forward, so it is no surprise it has deteriorated further, although in response to these figures the council says it will continue to hold schools to account.

I have publicly identified Kent schools with high exclusion rates in the past, and been gratified to see numbers fall possibly as a consequence.

Surely Medway schools failing their communities should be equally placed in the spotlight?

• You can read more about Kent's education issues on Peter Read's website at www.kentadvice.co.uk.



WORRY: Peter Read says numbers are too high in the Medway area and that the council needs to have a strategy to tackle the issue.

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Five years on since London 2012, did the Games leave its promised legacy?

Won with a bid which promised to put sport at the heart of our communities, we take a look at the impact of the Olympic Games, staged on our doorstep, to discover what remains of a magical time

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

It was precisely five years ago on Thursday that after all the hype and expectation, the London 2012 Olympic Games began in the most dramatic style.

Following in the footsteps of Beijing's ultra-extravagant event, there were fears London would struggle to

match the sheer majesty of what China had served up four years before.

Yet no sooner had the opening ceremony got under way - a spectacular look back at Britain's industrial and historical and cultural heritage - did it become apparent that London was creating a Games worthy of standing shoulder-to-shoulder with any other.

The feel-good factor it generated nationwide is one which even the cynics had to acknowledge.

London's success in bidding for the event hung much on the legacy it would leave; a renewed sense of desire to participate in various sports and a long-standing healthier attitude from future generations. That sport's role in our society would enrich it for the better.

So, five years on, has that legacy borne the fruit it promised right here in Kent?

Figures from Sport England, the publicly funded organisation designed to encourage sport in our communities, shows that in the county some 50,000 more people are still regularly taking part in some type of sporting activity since the Games.

The statistics reveal over half a million people in Kent are playing sports on a regular basis, and that is up from 450,000 before the London Olympics in 2012.

Perhaps more significantly, money is still being invested too.

It may be wrong to suggest sport now defines us as a nation, but the benefits of sport - sparked by 2012 - is at least apparent.

Sport England set up its Olympic

legacy fund calling it Inspired Facilities. It has since invested £4.1 million of National Lottery funding to upgrade and improve 85 community sports facilities across Kent.

Explains a spokesman for Sport England: "Nationally we saw a step up in participation in the period leading up to and during the Games and this has been maintained."

"It has been replicated in Kent with numbers of participants fluctuating around 500,000 compared to 450,000 pre-Games."

"Since 2012 Sport England has invested £6.1 million of National Lottery funding in over 230 local community sport projects in Kent."

Medway knows the importance of keeping this going. After all, Paralympic ski champion Charlotte Evans, along with Rugby World Cup winner Rachael Burford and Olympic trampolinist Kat Driscoll grew up in Medway, while Olympic gold hockey medalist goalkeeper Maddie Hinch is just one of the sporting stars who has trained in the area.

To keep that legacy going, it spent £11 million turning Medway Park in

Gillingham into a world-class facility to allow elite athletes use for training and competition, and perhaps more importantly, members of the public too. Now almost three million people use the council's sports centres each year.

Thanks to the success of the Olympics, Medway Park is now the home of England Wheelchair Rugby League, and made British handball history in November 2016 when it hosted an international women's handball tournament, for the first time in the UK.

The facilities have also hosted Olympic athletes in the weeks before they competed at the London Games, and international events in table tennis, fencing, handball, sitting volleyball and judo.

Also on the back of the Olympics, the council hosts yearly mass participation events, such as the Big Ride and Big Splash.

Cycling was an Olympic favourite, and Medway is still rolling out a £2.5m programme of cycle routes, providing a network of sporting and recreational routes.

In Kent as a whole, general exercise



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GOLDEN: There were plenty of memorable moments, but did the Games leave us all wanting to embrace sport some five years on? The answer may just surprise you... Pictures: PA

and activity is up on figures before the Games.

Kent County Council said stats show a "significant growth" in participation with three per cent more people exercising by doing 30 minutes of moderate intensity participation a week. The participation rise is similar in the group that does this three times a week, with a bigger rise of almost four per cent in Medway.

This puts Kent near the top of the list nationally.

Since 2012, Kent County Council said there has been over 6,400 more people joining running clubs in the county, there is now 55 more recog-

nised cycle routes, and over 14,000 people aged between 14 and 25 have completed a six week Sportivate programme in a sport of their choice.

The innovative Kent School Games programme has also dramatically expanded giving more support to those with disability; introducing mentors for elite athletes; and bringing in a young volunteers programme.

A spokesman for the county council explained: "Since 2012, we have invested just short of £400,000, through the KCC capital grant scheme for sport, in sports facilities and equipment in the county, leveraging in a further £4.2m over this same

period.

"Typical recipients have been voluntary sports clubs, schools, and parish councils, and sites managed by leisure trusts on behalf of district councils."

Recipients like Edenbridge Cricket Club saw a 200 per cent rise in growth, and Birchington Bowls Club which saw a tripling in numbers. Even the introduction of changing rooms at High Halden pavilion saw numbers go up from 30 a week to over 1,000.

Tourism in the county has also risen since the London Games with a two per cent growth in the visitor

economy, with Visit Kent saying visitor economy jobs supported has grown by four per cent.

And it looks like the London Olympic legacy is set to continue.

In a key report, KCC concluded: "As we move further away from 2012, the experience of what can be achieved by different partners from different sectors working together remains in organisational and professional memories, and has fundamentally improved the way in which KCC and our partners more broadly position the sport and physical activity agenda."

And it adds: "The Sport and Physi-

cal Activity Service, using the experience of Kent 2012, continues to identify how the widest possible impact can be achieved through county level sports events, and through working with partners to secure the Open Golf more frequently for Sandwich. Its focus going forward, however, is aligning with public health outcomes to ensure the least active are supported to 'get the sporty bug' particularly in those areas of highest health inequalities; supporting Kent's ageing population to remaining physically active as long as possible; and growing the 'active outdoors' market as an informal route into physical activity."



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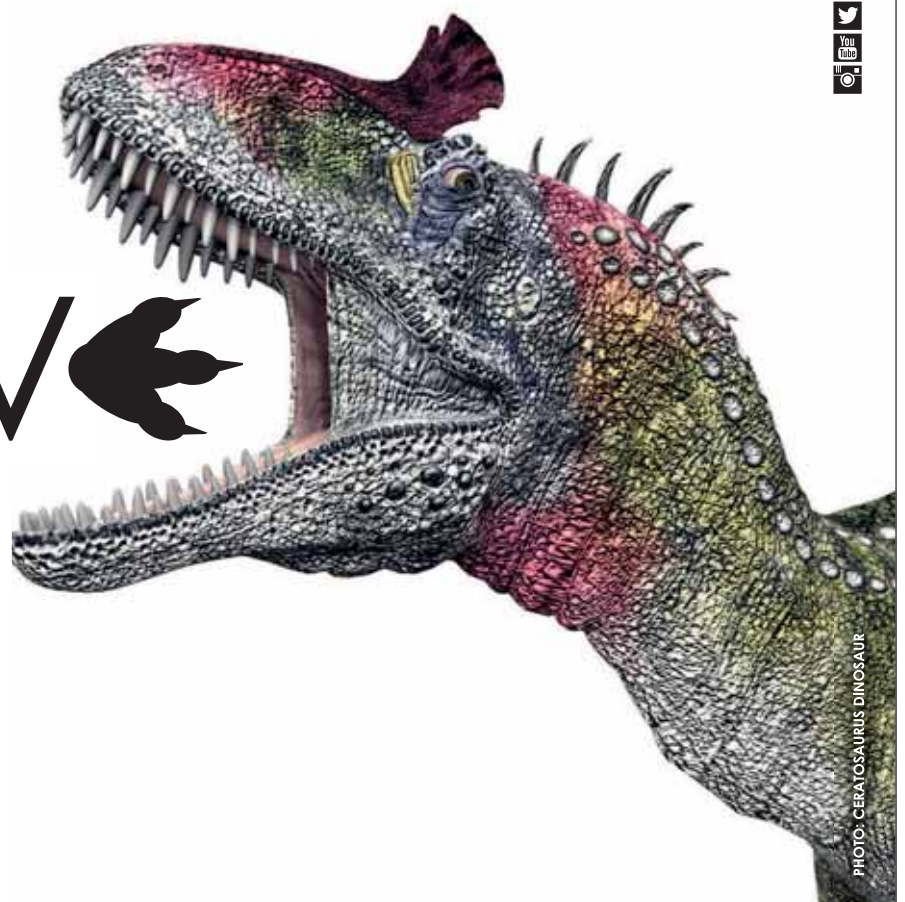


PHOTO: CERATOSAURUS DINOSAUR

World Cup cricket ace hopes success will fuel future stars

Stunning victory at Lord's last weekend propelled women's game into spotlight

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT star Tammy Beaumont believes England Women's World Cup triumph last weekend could inspire a whole new generation of female cricketers.

The 26-year-old opener was named player of the tournament and finished as the highest run-scorer in the competition with 410 after hitting 23 off 37 balls in Sunday's final success against India.

She is optimistic the dramatic nine-run win at Lord's will raise the profile of the women's game and capture the imagination of youngsters.

"Hopefully some young girl that watched will be walking out at Lord's in 10 to 15 years' time to play in a World Cup again," she said.

"Hopefully it will filter down to increasing the Super League, getting more than just the 18 of us on contracts.

"If we can in 10 years' time get it to being a domestic level where every-

one is more professional, I think it will raise the game in an even bigger way."

Dover-born Beaumont also posted the fourth highest score of the tournament with a knock of 148 against South Africa in the group stage.

Speaking about being named the competition's best player, Beaumont added: "It hasn't really sunk in for me yet. I think I was the leading run scorer only by one so I think I need to thank Nat [Sciver] for running Mithali [Raj] out.

"It is just great to contribute to this team and it feels really good to have done it, but it really has been a massive team effort. It has been an absolute team performance and incredible really."

Beaumont also hailed the final as a celebration of women's cricket, after 105-year-old Eileen Ash, the oldest living England women cricketer, rang the Lord's bell at the start of play.

"I think I had goosebumps the entire day," she added. "It was a massive celebration, we had Eileen Ash ringing the bell and it was just a real



honour - all of the women that have gone before us, they were so proud of us, it was amazing."

Kent were also represented in the team by 30-year-old Laura March,

who also impressed throughout the month.

She averaged four for 45 with the ball during the match against Sri Lanka on July 2, and had England's

best batting strike rate (137.83).

It wasn't all plain sailing for England, however, with captain Heather Knight fearing her team had lost their chance just moments before



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their stunning triumph.

In one of the most dramatic climaxes played out at Lord's - in any form of the game - India had gone from needing 38 to win with seven

wickets in hand to the verge of defeat.

But when Jenny Gunn spilled the most straightforward catch of the match, and probably even the tour-

nament, to let India number 10 Rajeshwari Gayakwad off the hook, England's heads were in their hands.

They need not have worried,



GLORY: Kent's Tammi Beaumont, above, was one of England's top stars during their memorable World Cup win last weekend. Pictures: PA

though. India's collapse was concluded the very next ball, with the player of the match Anya Shrubsole

clean-bowling Gayakwad to complete her six-wicket haul and seal a memorable victory.



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CATHY, 54yr old widow, I'm kind and warm hearted and hoping you will call me. Looks important must have GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427653

KATIE, 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

ATTRACTIVE lady, 57yrs, great sense of humour, now looking for good times and good memories. Hoping to meet gent any age. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427883

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

GEMMA, 25yrs, green eyed blonde lady, loves to read, raunchy books so has a huge imagination, hoping to expand upon it in real life. Call me. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427881

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

ATTRACTIVE lonely widow, mid 70s seeking gent for friendship. Pls call or text. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427879

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

STUNNINGLY attractive black lady, 50s, with blissful imagination, you have to call to hear what's on offer, you won't be sorry!! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427877

TAMIKIA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 422365

CULTURED lady with wicked sense of humour, late 60s seeking humorous man for purposeful relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427875

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive blonde with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979

ATTRACTIVE lady, 51yrs, loves the countryside, walking, fun times. WLTW a genuine man for romance, relationship. Call or text me. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427873

HARRIET, 42yrs, blue eyed blonde with long legs, fun and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 426205

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 426851

SONIA, mature lady, pretty and feminine with fair hair. Loves to socialise, walking, car boot sales and more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427647

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated 'some call me posh' married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box 427533

PAMELA early 70s with softly rounded body! If you are a tender male with passion then call or text me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427635

RACHAEL, 42yrs, naughty girl who needs lots of pleasure. Call me. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427871

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PIA, Asian lady, 57yrs, very caring and a little subservient and quiet. I am a good cook and loyal friend. Pls text me if you are kind man 55+. Text Only. Mailbox 4013378

MICHELLE, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busty figure. I'm very mature for my age and hoping to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427649

NATALIA, black beauty! I am late 50s but still fit with a good figure and lovely skin and eyes. I would like to meet a nice white gentleman, older than myself for chats, maybe more. Text Only. Mailbox 4177999

MARGARET is in her 60s, she's young looking, blue-eyed blonde, kind, loving with lots of qualities. Seeking mature gent for mutual life's pleasures. Please call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427493

JULIE, 68yrs but very fit and young looking. Married to an older gent so hoping to meet someone much much younger. Text Me. Text Only: 4193435

TRUDY, 70 something lady seeks gent. I'm broadminded and will respond to all calls. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427471

KAREN, late 50's seeking discreet gent any age/area for daytime meetings. Text Only. Box: 4194757

FELICITY, 'my friends call me posh' I'm not really. Call me to see. I'm 58yrs, curvy, blonde extensions and very good for my age. ACA. Text Only. Box: 4043583

MATURE lady, slim and youthful, divorcee, loves laughter, life and everything. WLTW gent for continued fun and passion. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427655

JANET, late 40's divorcee, own home and car looking to spice up my life with some fun. Discreet men only please, I'm not ready for a full on relationship, casual chats. Text Only. Box: 4189331

JASMINE, petite Black lady 51yrs, varied interests. Seeking white man for relationship. Looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427657

HELLO I'm 47yrs old, I'm a curvy brunette, varied interests with GSOH, hard working and solvent. WLTW gent taller than me, 5ft3. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427639

ATTRACTIVE Irish lady, 34yrs seek gent of any age. I'm caring, attractive with lots of offer, call to hear more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427637

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GENUINE retired, mature widower, honest, kind and considerate, enjoys most things, walking, countryside, seaside, seeking a lady for LTR, just wanting to share my life with somebody special. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428023

MALE, 55, WLTW a lady, 60-70, for discreet adult fun. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428039

SINGLE dad of two, WLTW a single mum, for a proper relationship. Please get in contact I look forward to hearing from you. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427999

JAMES, 43, genuine, witty, positive, kind and caring, loves travel, socialising, eating out and lots and lots of laughs with the right person, looking for genuine, friendly lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428019

MALE 60, 6ft, blue eyes, broad shoulders, size 11 shoes, a real handfull! Seeks a fit mature busy woman for fun times. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6001755

THANET male, retired, 5ft5, dark hair, smart, OHOC, likes walks, travel in motorhome, looking for a single, attractive lady with similar interests in Thanet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427557

SOLVENT male, older but young at heart, looking for a young lady to wine and dine and spoil and pamper and in turn to pamper me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427443

MALE, 70s, would like to meet slim lady 60 plus. Text only. Mailbox: 4505135

DEBBIE, young looking 49yrs, pretty blonde lady with lots to offer. If you are interested in a meeting a lady like me then please call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427611

BECKY, 30 something lady. Full of laughter, very open minded and discreet. Hoping to meet similar minded gent who is older than me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427495

CHRISTINE, young looking 43yrs, kind with lovely blue eyes. Genuine, loving. WLTW gent with GSOH, must be older than me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427491

HELLO, I'm 58yrs and called Marie. I'm tall and seeking a man who likes to look at me. I am Black and very sensual. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427475

JANE, mature blonde lady, loves jokes, countryside, driving, cosy nights in. I'm solvent and seek a gent 70+. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427473

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TALL, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks tactile lady for company and jolly jaunts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021

MALE, 58, slim build, 5ft9, brown eyes, hard working, enjoys fishing and socialising, looking for no strings attached fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425369

HI ladies, looking for either NSA fun or LTR. I am single/work/live in own house. Text only. Mailbox: 4509325

LOCAL 70 year old young male, now single, nice appearance and dresser, looking for fun and friendship with a lady, 55-70, possible holidays. Can travel. Please ring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426897

LIVELY mature gent, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621

WELL off man, wanting a young lady for spoiling. I am a sugar daddy looking for a sugar baby. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427441

CARING, sociable male, 72, N/S, likes all types of music, walking, meals out, looking for a lady for friendship at first. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426865

KENT man, retired engineer, solvent, enjoys holidays, meals out, good conversation, WLTW a slim lady, 60-70, with a GSOH, to share these times and hopefully become friends. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426887

RETIRED, smart, 68 year old, 5ft5, I enjoy eating out, walking, holidays and golf, WLTW a slim, attractive lady, 60-68, for a loving, tender relationship, to enjoy these times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421853

MALE divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641

BARRY, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195

GUY, 50, 6ft tall, calm and kind, good company, seeking lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425369

JERRY, 66, brown hair, brown eyes, recently widowed, love to walk my dog, WLTW compatible lady for companionship and to see where things go. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426387

EASYGOING male, 49, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401

CARING sociable, GSOH, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks likeminded lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. Text only. Mailbox: 5082918

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, 64, widowed, own house, loves holidays abroad, reading, eating out, eating in and shows, WLTW a lady of similar age to share interests and happy times together hopefully leading to lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425787

HELLO, mature gentleman looking for a lady who is caring, likes holidays, karaoke, meals out, country walks and cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425401

DENTAL practitioner, 44, 6ft, slim, athletic build, thick dark hair, blue eyes, loves sports, seeks slim feminine sporty lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425087

HELLO, mature gentleman looking for a lady who is caring, likes holidays, karaoke, meals out, country walks and cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425401



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MALE, 50s, likes to cross dress, looking for same for friendship and fun. Has to be discreet. Text only replies. Mailbox: 4623598

JOHN, young at heart 65, bi male, looking for casual fun with likeminded male. Maidstone Kent area. Must be discreet. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5657306

GAY guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267

EASY going guy, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411413

ROB, bi-curious male, 55, seeks likeminded male, crossdresser/TV. Must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426287

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SERIES: The statue will form part of a series of similar life-sized art installations from the man behind the Angel of the North. Pic: ANDREW DUNN

Margate to welcome statue by Gormley onto the beach

It will be completely submerged during high tide and visible from the Turner

ALIFE-sized sculpture from the artist who created the Angel of the North has been approved to sit on the chalk bed in front of Margate's Turner Contemporary.

Visible from the gallery windows, the figure by Antony Gormley, and based on his own body, will be completely submerged at high tide and slowly revealed as the tide withdraws.

It follows on from a series of similar installations he has created - most notably on Crosby beach, near Liverpool. In 2007 he erected 100 life-size statues, in a work known as Another Place, on the beach which remains a hugely popular tourist attraction.

The Margate figure will be part of his on-going project known as Another Time - a series of 100 more statues put up around the

country.

The artist says his solitary figure will invite visitors to "reflect upon the fundamental experience of being human, of inhabiting a human body".

This summer, visitors can also see two of Gormley's cast iron, life-sized sculptures in Folkestone, when a pair of figures will be placed on the shoreline.

These sculptures will be in place between July and November as part of the Folkestone Triennial.

The site in Margate is part of Thanet's stretch of coastal chalk which is the longest in the UK.

The installation of the sculpture will take place over the next three weeks after Thanet District Council granted planning permission.

Sarah Martin, head of exhibitions at Turner Contemporary said: "We are thrilled to feature

Antony Gormley's sculpture as part of our summer season at Turner Contemporary.

"Stepping beyond the walls of the gallery and siting artworks in outdoor spaces is both hugely exciting and logistically complex.

"After months of work behind the scenes, it's brilliant to see the installation work begin.

"A celebration of our extraordinary views of the North Sea - it will undoubtedly capture imaginations."

Rob Kenyon, director of community services at Thanet District Council added: "We are delighted to have approved a life sized Antony Gormley sculpture.

"He is one of Britain's finest contemporary artists and we are excited that the people of Thanet can enjoy his work.

"The planned installation celebrates our unique location - at

the edge of both land and sea.

"It will be visible or disappear according to the tide, increasing the sense of mystery and charm.

"The human scale and magical setting will make this installation a deeply moving work.

"Thanet's creative and tourist industry is already booming and this will be yet another reason for people to visit our fantastic coastline and the first class Turner Contemporary."

It is not the only famous work heading to Margate. As KoS reported last week, local artist Tracey Emin's controversial My Bed - a piece depicting her bed and full of dirty underwear and cigarette ends and originally created in her Waterloo council flat back in 1998 - will be on display in an exhibition running from October to January at the Turner.

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ZZ Top set to give Mote Park all their lovin' at Ramblin' Man

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ROCK explodes in Maidstone's Mote Park this weekend as some legendary names take to the stage for the annual Ramblin' Man Fair.

The three day event - a modest Friday evening line-up supplemented the main smorgasbord of guitar-heavy, denim and leather-laden, long-haired power rock - runs until Sunday evening in what has become one of the county's major festivals.

This year saw Saxon headline on Friday night, before Extreme rocked the crowds on Saturday.

And tonight, Sunday, it will see some of the most magnificent beards the world of music has ever seen, as iconic trio ZZ Top let rip through their back catalogue of monster hits.

Perhaps best known for their enormous selling 1983 album Eliminator - which included the hits Gimme All Your Lovin', Sharp Dressed Man, and Legs and some memorable videos just as the medium was dominating our TV screen - the group managed to



TODAY: You can still buy tickets on the gate for this weekend's big show

shift 10 million copies of that album alone.

Since then, the three-piece - Dusty Hill, Billy Gibbons and Frank Beard (the irony being drummer Beard is the fellow who doesn't have the enormous beard) - have continued to perform together and will now see off the end of the Ramblin' Man Fair with a 90-minute set.

It is their only UK festival show

this year, and comes as the final UK date of a European jaunt which has seen them perform in Germany and France as well as a string of shows here.

And the good news is that their set will play all their biggest hits.

Also performing on one of the various stages today will be the likes of Magnum, The Quireboys and UFO, plus many others.

If you want to give your hearing

a good work out, then tickets are likely to be available on the gate.

Standard admission for Sunday only is £85 or you can upgrade to VIP entry for £125 - which gives you access to a special viewing platform, an exclusive bar and, perhaps most importantly, dedicated toilets.

The Ramblin' Man Fair gates open at 12.30pm and ZZ Top are due to finish at around 10pm.

Parkrun for juniors starts

A JUNIOR version of Parkrun will take place at the Tonbridge Farm Sportsground in Darent Avenue every Sunday at 9am. The 2km course is designed for those aged four to 14 and is free to attend.



Weekly disco on the roof

FOLKESTONE's Leas Cliff Hall will be hosting a family-friendly Rooftop Disco every Sunday afternoon in August from 12.30pm to 4pm.

It features a barbecue and cocktail bar and is free to attend. It will not be staged during bad weather.

Summer fun at the shops

THE McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Ashford is going to be hosting a range of summer activities from now until September 3 with free events on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays between 11am-4pm.



Dog show at sportsground

CREAM of the canine crop will be at the Tonbridge Racecourse Sportsground today (Sunday) for the Tonbridge Dog Show.

The fun event is open to everyone and pets of all shapes and sizes and runs from 10am to 4pm. Dogs wanting to take part can pay a small fee of £1.50 per class.



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Artistic twist as seaside town's month-long festival continues

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

YOU have until August 6 to get down to Margate to enjoy the town's month long summer festival.

The event gives the popular seaside town a very artistic angle with galleries, shop fronts and even flats hosting an eclectic array of exhibitions and events which unearth local talent and "ask urgent questions about our existence".

All rather different, then, than the normal perception of the seaside town perhaps most famous for Dreamland and its beach awash with families packing bucket and spades and soaking up the sun.

Among the events are Catographies at Hantverk & Found in King Street, featuring everything from "radical infographics to Turner Prize nominees", it showcases representations of geographical, socio-political, personal or emotional landscapes.

Artists include Jeremy Wood, Cornelia Parker and Adam Dant in this collection of artistic and politically potent responses to contemporary map-making, featuring interna-



VIEWS: Chance to take another look at a town rediscovering itself in the 21st century

tional and emerging artists pushing the boundaries of cartography.

At the Theatre Royal on August 1 you can join in with the Spooky Man's Chorale where you can sing along and learn some weird and wonderful new number.

And if live music, spoken word and art installations is more your thing, then spend a day at PRAH studios with its gallery and event space, recording studio and BBQ

yard next Saturday, August 5.

At Dreamland itself, Canterbury School of Art tutor and artist, Barry Kirk showcases his latest exhibition, Dreamlandscapes.

Capturing the vibrancy and ambience of Dreamland in its heyday, his art provides a snap shot of the amusement park's past and people.

Explains a spokesman of the organisers: "As a newcomer or as a local to Margate, you'll definitely

discover something new this season. Our partners at Dreamland and Turner Contemporary are hosting a whole host of exciting events and exhibitions too.

"It's time to not just celebrate this splendid town but to dig beneath the surface and ask how we can join in, take a look and make a change."

For details, see the website margatefestival.org.

Don't forget Elephant Day

CELEBRATE World Elephant Day at the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park in Birchington on August 12.

There's a chance to handle a real elephant tooth with special events throughout the day.



Let's shout about Lulu

LULU heads to the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells in October as part of her latest UK tour.

The singer will run through her hits - including the classic Shout - on October 11. Tickets, including VIP packages, are available now.

Nature reserve's birthday

RSPB Broadwater Warren near Tunbridge Wells holds a special event on August 19 to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

A host of activities will be taking place at the former conifer plantation.



The Kate Bush experience

CLOUDBUSTING will bring the music of Kate Bush to life as part of the Hever Festival this summer.

Taking place on August 6, tickets for the show recreating her distinct sound are on sale now for £25 for covered seating and £16 for the grass areas.

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Gennaro proves he is far from pasta his best

Kate Whiting meets Gennaro Contaldo, the Italian chef Jamie Oliver refers to as his 'London dad'

WOULD you like to taste some pasta?" Just two minutes after meeting Gennaro Contaldo at one of the London branches of Jamie's Italian, he's already being the perfect host.

As it's lunchtime, and yes, I am quite hungry, I gratefully accept, and he quickly dispatches a waiter with instructions to ask chef Valentino for "one pasta special of the day", adding in that famous Italian lilt: "Ees for Gennaro".

The bubbly 68-year-old is universally loved by all the chefs he trains at Jamie Oliver's Italian restaurants around the globe, and most of all by his protege, Jamie himself, who calls Gennaro his 'London dad'.

It's this passion for cooking and good food that Gennaro extols in his cookbook *Passione* ("kind of my biography"), named after the restaurant he ran in London in the early-Noughties. First published in 2003 - "that book put me on the map" - it's now been lovingly updated with stories and photos from Gennaro's childhood growing up on Italy's Amalfi Coast.

In the books, he calls it a "free-range" childhood. The family had no fridge, so everything had to be fresh and they ate with the seasons. His father, a linen merchant, brought animals home he'd been given as payment by local farmers and did most of the cooking, while his mother, who he affectionately calls 'a white witch',



PASSION: Gennaro Contaldo still lives and breathes food

sent him out to collect herbs from the mountains, which sparked a lifelong love of foraging (he boasts he can find wild rocket in central London).

The pasta special arrives - squid-like calamari with a pesto of roasted red peppers, garlic and chilli with buffalo ricotta - and it's the best thing I've ever tasted.

"It's kind of al dente, but it's a little bit chewy because it's fresh. Al dente means you chew longer, so you taste it and digest it better. You want to keep that flavour in your mouth longer, it's like a glass of wine."

When he first arrived in London, Gennaro worked as a kitchen porter for a hospital, to get a permit, and eventually ended up at his good friend Antonio Carluccio's Neal Street Res-

taurant, where he met and mentored Jamie Oliver, before branching out on his own and opening *Passione*.

He left the restaurant three years before it closed in 2009, a victim of the recession, to collaborate with Jamie on the Jamie's Italian chain.

"He is like a son, he's got exactly the same love, and cares and respects food and people, which is so important."

"I look up to him. My God, he can do it. And we film quite a lot, me and Jamie, we film a new programme which will come out next year. We go round Italy, and try to discover these beautiful, almost lost recipes."

• *Gennaro's Passione: The Classic Italian Cookery Book* by Gennaro Contaldo is published in hardback by Pavilion, priced £20.

See Kraftwerk legend

KRAFTWERK's Wolfgang Flur plays Ramsgate Music Hall in November.

The percussionist will be performing "selected electro tunes for dancing" in the venue on November 9.

The German band enjoyed huge success between 1973 and 1986 with its pioneering electro sound prompting one NME journalist to describe them as "the most influential group in pop history".

Spoiler Alert - it's Ed

COMEDIAN Ed Byrne heads to the county town with his brand new stand-up show later this year.

The star of BBC TV's hit panel show *Mock the Week* and Dara & Ed's *Big Adventure*, will perform at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone on October 17 as part of his *Spoiler Alert* UK tour.

Tickets for the performance cost £25.50 and are on sale from the box office now.

Take That tribute show

RELIVE the glory years of Take That with a top tribute act as it celebrates the boy band's remarkable 25 year career at Gravesend's Woodville Theatre in October.

The *Take That Experience* will run through all the hits - including those since they reformed - with a special section devoted to the hits of Robbie Williams.

The two-hour show takes place on October 20. Tickets on sale now.

Wolves getting wild

TWO grey wolves have been released into their new woodland enclosure at Wildwood, near Canterbury.

It comes as the centre enlarges its wolf facility, with staff hoping the pair will mate and provide a litter to create the park's latest wolf pack.

Wildwood's Peter Smith said, "Our vision is to allow people to immerse themselves inside the new wolf woodland."



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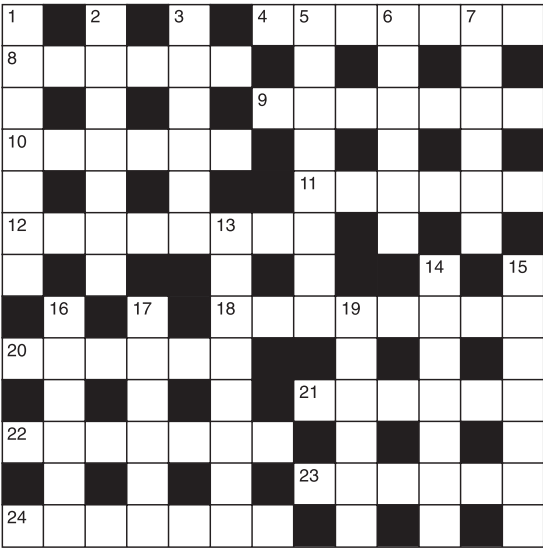
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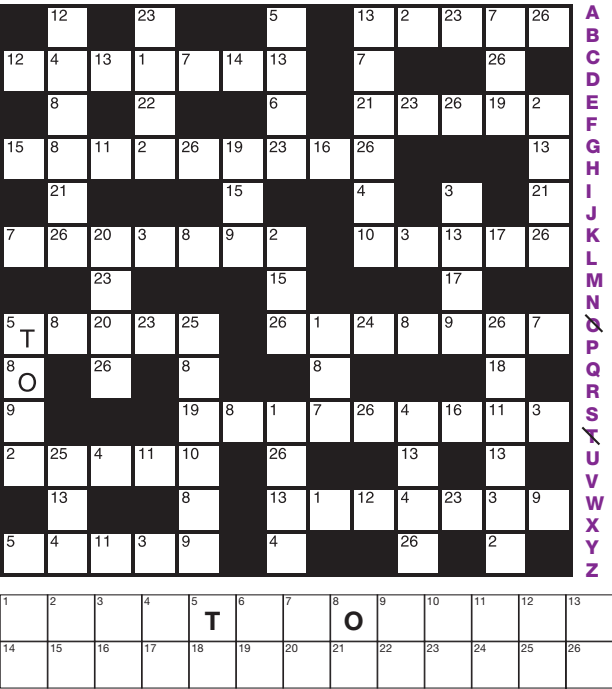
- Across**
- 4. Bunch (7)
 - 8. Refrain (6)
 - 9. Tasteless (7)
 - 10. Emanated (6)
 - 11. Threefold (6)
 - 12. Defeat (8)
 - 18. Unchanging (8)
 - 20. Sausage (6)
 - 21. Loiter (6)
 - 22. Coagulated (7)
 - 23. Whole (6)
 - 24. Hide (7)
- Down**
- 1. Attain (7)
 - 2. Compliance (7)
 - 3. Office (6)
 - 5. Elongate (8)
 - 6. Grasped (6)
 - 7. Eatable (6)
 - 13. Event (8)
 - 14. Listless (7)
 - 15. Began (7)
 - 16. Ripe (6)
 - 17. Pantry (6)
 - 19. Thin (6)

Cryptic

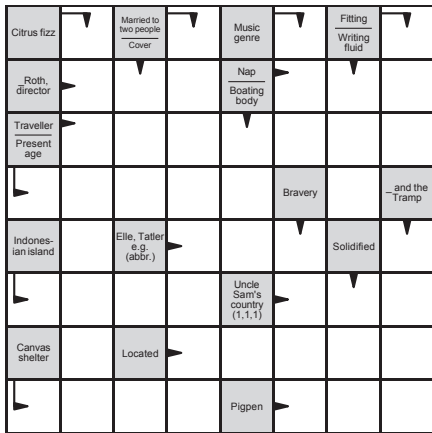
- Across**
- 4. Go-ahead pawnbrokers may give you one (7)
 - 8. Rose is involved in basketwork (6)
 - 9. It makes a man keen on money, and a woman on food (7)
 - 10. A skilled mechanic is more suitable (6)
 - 11. Routed in a roundabout way as a diversion (6)
 - 12. Not a positive denial (8)
 - 18. It may be taken to promote good feeling (8)
 - 20. Possibly go over a rut (6)
 - 21. Possibly they're staple items made in potteries (6)
 - 22. Concentrated on treating tennis elbow initially (7)
 - 23. One eats it, as a matter of course (6)
 - 24. Registers the disks (7)
- Down**
- 1. Go in for modified coverage (7)
 - 2. Grape producer holds a label to mark its year (7)
 - 3. Daren't become passionate! (6)
 - 5. A product of good stock (8)
 - 6. Put in charge at the lemonade factory? (6)
 - 7. Naturally, it raises awkward points (6)
 - 13. Put into liquidation? (8)
 - 14. Get into bad shape (7)
 - 15. A complaint soon spotted? (7)
 - 16. Country writer (6)
 - 17. Somehow led to nothing in a Spanish city (6)
 - 19. Easter is one, Christmas is another (6)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword

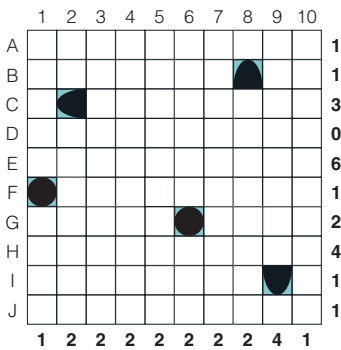


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

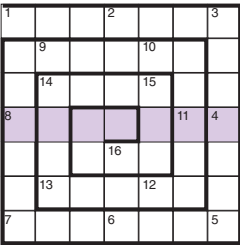
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



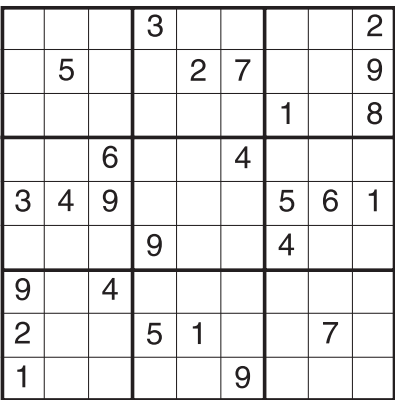
Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

- 1. Punt
- 2. Door handle
- 3. Floating marker
- 4. Spun thread
- 5. Golf's Faldo
- 6. Be aware of
- 7. Insect
- 8. Leaf of book
- 9. Gaelic
- 10. Verge
- 11. Jug
- 12. Encircle
- 13. Chew steadily
- 14. Conflicts
- 15. Slender
- 16. Planet

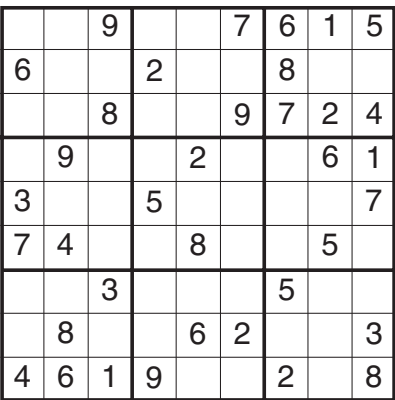
Keyword clue: A herb

SUDOKU

Hard



Easy



Solutions

Double Crossword

Across: 4 Advance; 8 Oars; 9 Averse; 10 Filter; 11 Dour; 12 Negative; 13 Skimp; 14 Lard; 15 Mature; 16 Matur; 17 Lard; 18 Lard; 19 Lard; 20 Lard; 21 Lard; 22 Lard; 23 Lard; 24 Lard; 25 Lard; 26 Lard.

Down: 1 Achieve; 2 Lard; 3 Lard; 4 Lard; 5 Lard; 6 Lard; 7 Lard; 8 Lard; 9 Lard; 10 Lard; 11 Lard; 12 Lard; 13 Lard; 14 Lard; 15 Lard; 16 Lard; 17 Lard; 18 Lard; 19 Lard; 20 Lard; 21 Lard; 22 Lard; 23 Lard; 24 Lard; 25 Lard; 26 Lard.

Word Spiral

Across: 1 Punt; 2 Door handle; 3 Floating marker; 4 Spun thread; 5 Golf's Faldo; 6 Be aware of; 7 Insect; 8 Leaf of book; 9 Gaelic; 10 Verge; 11 Jug; 12 Encircle; 13 Chew steadily; 14 Conflicts; 15 Slender; 16 Planet.

Keyword clue: A herb

Sudoku - Easy

Sudoku - Hard

Battleships

Arrowword

My 'Sherry' in New York

Turns out, if it wasn't for New York, there would be no Eileen Wise. Here, she makes a 'return visit'.

There is no place like it, no place with an atom of its glory, pride and exultancy'. The poet Walt Whitman was a native of the 'Big Apple' and his words perfectly capture this extraordinary weekend destination.

Where to stay? There is a lovely story behind my first choice, the Sherry Netherlands Hotel, on fancy Fifth Avenue. It concerns my parents, who first met in a chance encounter in the 1950s on an aeroplane flying from Chicago to Mexico. My mother came from the Windy City and my father, a British farmer, just happened to be in the US touring universities and giving lectures about his innovative new crop spraying company.

After courting for two years across the Atlantic, they spent the start of their honeymoon in the Sherry

Netherlands Hotel. I was born nine months later to the day! So, I was keen to return to where it all began. Their honeymoon suite had a balcony overlooking Central Park so it was poignant when we were placed in a suite that could easily have been theirs, enjoying the same magnificent views.

The Sherry, as it's referred to, has clearly kept the old world charm and service that attracted my parents all those years ago. It was TripAdvisor's American hotel of the year in 2016.

Viewing Central Park's skating rink from our balcony made us eager to explore it. Evading the army of joggers, we strolled to the wonderful Alice in Wonderland bronze statue, surrounded by her friends The White Rabbit, the Dormouse, Cheshire Cat and Mad Hatter.

Next, we sought mental stimulation along Fifth Avenue's 'Museum Mile'



■ Eileen and her husband Roger enjoying the Alice in Wonderland statue in Central Park.

at the stunning Guggenheim Museum, which looks like an upturned teacup from the outside and inside houses a magnificent collection of Chagalls, Kandinskys, Picassos and Van Goghs. Not far away is perhaps the most enjoyable of the New York galleries – the Frick Collection, which has always striven to retain the feel of a house. Here we especially enjoyed Thomas Gainsborough's striking landscape 'The Mall in St James's Park'.

Our second refuge was The Roger Hotel on Madison Avenue. Chic and modernistic, this is a hotel with an intimate, boutique atmosphere. If you're lucky enough to get a Penthouse suite, it comes with a spacious terrace – big enough to hold a party - with stunning close-up views of the Empire State Building.

The Roger breakfasts set you up for a day's sightseeing, with classic NY treats like bagels from the legendary H & H store.

Factfile

Things to do in NYC

■ Glitzy Trump Tower is definitely worth a visit, even if not your cup of tea - but will you spot the President?

■ The upturned teacup that is the Guggenheim is a must for art lovers and don't forget to visit The Frick as well, where Gainsborough resides

■ Alice in Wonderland really does live in Central Park - who knew?

■ The Top of the Rock observation deck at the Rockefeller Center is a good moment to stop and survey what may be the greatest city in the world

■ How to get there?

Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow to JFK airport www.virginatlantic.com

■ Where to stay?

www.sherrynetherlands.com
www.therogernewyork.com

A wander past the glitzy yet ghastly Trump Tower, a trip to the Top of the Rock observation deck at the Rockefeller Centre, a visit to Macy's, only a five-minute walk from The Roger and probably the largest department in the world was all we had time for on this short visit.

We'd only put a toe in the water, but we'll be back for another dip soon. I think I was born for it!

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LIVE MUSIC

GREAT FOOD

Beer festival guide

Advertiser's announcement



WE'RE half way through our British Summer, meaning there's precious time left to soak up the "sun" and enjoy some traditional beers.

So, why not have a day out consisting of cold alcoholic drinks at some of the counties best beer festivals?

What are beer festivals about?

Kent's beer festivals tend to focus on draught real ale, as well as locally bottled beers and ciders - showing off the homegrown brewing talent.

Festivals are often organised by a number of different organisations, and places, including the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), and pubs and breweries. CAMRA festivals usually offer discounted prices for those who are members of the society.

How big are they? And where are they held?

Beer festivals generally range in sizes, therefore there's going to be one to suit anyone. Bigger ones may be held in exhibition venues, whereas smaller ones could be in halls, or as part of a market.

Some take place over a couple of days, and will take over a whole town or village - each pub will have different music and entertainment, but will all come under the same festival title.

How is the alcohol served?

Generally the beers and ales are served straight from the cask, and glasses are given out at the entrance, much like how you get a wristband as you walk into a music festival.

However, if it's held in numerous pubs and breweries, you tend to get

the alcohol served as you normally would, but there could be offers on prices or different varieties of beers, ales and ciders available, compared to usual.

How much beer can you drink?

In all British festivals the beer is sold in quantities of half or full pints. Although some festivals also serve

quantities of one-third a pint for people who want to taste lots of different types and varieties.

Is there just alcohol?

The alcohol stands are also usually accompanied by food stalls or burger vans to soak up what's been consumed throughout those hot, busy summer afternoons.

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THE LIGHTHOUSE IS A MUSIC AND ARTS PUB SITUATED ON THE EAST KENT COAST

We strive to bring you an eclectic mix of music and creative events, hosting amazing artists from around the country and beyond.

The Lighthouse is proud to be a free house which supports and serves refreshments from local breweries and craft beer specialists.

For event info, tickets, mailing list, and more visit:
www.thelighthousedeal.co.uk

THE BEER FESTIVAL

Friday 25th – Monday 28th August 2017

There will be 12 real ales to sample as well as ciders

LIVE MUSIC on Friday, Saturday and Sunday
and a BBQ providing good food

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1 LOVE LANE, WELLINGTON STREET, GRAVESEND, KENT DA12 1JA

German Bierfest Ashford

11th, 12th, 13th of August

Bierfest:

General Admission Free all days:

Includes admission to the event including the German Village, Sekt Garden, Bier Garden and the FunTime area except the Bavarian FestTent. No ticket need to be booked up front.

FestTent *(Limited Availability)*

£5 EARLY BIRD TICKET:

includes a reserved seat in the Bavarian FestTent (seated together) & half-pint FestBier

£20-25 BIER TICKET:

INCLUDES: A guaranteed reserved seat in the Bavarian FestTent (seated together), one stein (2 pint) of FestBier and a nice food plate with Bavarian-style sausage and an Underberg (digestif). Ticket may also access the free part of the event.

£30-35 VIP TICKET:

Includes priority VIP entrance and a guaranteed reserved seat in the VIP area of the Bavarian FestTent with 1 glass of Schlumberger sekt, a Stein (2 pint) of Bier (select between Bavarian Weißbier, Bavarian Festbier, Bavarian Craftbier), a nice food plate with Bavarian-style chicken and a Underberg (digestif).

Corporate?

For corporate offers
please contact
ashford@bierfest.co.uk

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60s Rock the Rhine Christmas Markets River Cruise

Boppard, Rüdesheim, Mainz, Koblenz & Cologne

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Stansted

5 December, 2017 - Quote SP12-KOS

Join us on a fun and friendly cruise down memory lane as we party to 60s sounds with a star tribute artiste and GN's entertainment team along the magnificent Rhine. Our cruise on board the 4-star ms Swiss Pearl takes in magical Christmas markets in the riverside towns of Koblenz, Rüdesheim and Mainz, plus popular Boppard.

INCLUDED: 60s music themed entertainment • House wine, draft beer, juices, soft drinks, water, tea & coffee from the bar 10am to 1am daily, and served at lunch & dinner • Escorted Return Eurostar travel from St Pancras and Ebbsfleet OR return flights from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 4 nights full board plus cruise on the 4-star ms Swiss Pearl • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board

*conditions apply to low deposits - please call for details

**More cruises
including travel
by rail or air:**

MV Prinses Christina – Full Board

- Rhine Christmas Markets, 5 days, from £499, 11 Dec 2017
- Rhine Christmas, 6 days, from £799, 23 Dec 2017

MV Esmeralda – Full Board

- Rhine New Year, 5 days, from £699, 29 Dec 2017
- Rhine in Flames Night of Bengal Fire, 8 days, from £899, 30 Apr 2018



*£50pp
deposit

8 days
full board
from
£799pp

Rhine & Moselle River Cruise

Andernach, Cochem, Boppard, Rüdesheim, Koblenz
Konigswinter & Cologne

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Gatwick

3 Sept, 2017, 9 Jun, 15 Sept & 4 Oct, 2018 - Quote RH-KOS

Come with us on a relaxing river cruise on the majestic Rhine and beautiful Moselle rivers in southern Germany. Relax on board the MV Prinses Christina as she glides silkily past romantic hilltop castles, picturesque vineyards and historic riverside towns. Accommodation is in comfortable twin cabins with breakfast, lunch, dinner, morning coffee and afternoon tea each day.

INCLUDED: Escorted Eurostar travel from St Pancras and Ebbsfleet OR flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 7-night full board cruise on the MV Prinses Christina sharing a twin bed cabin on Cabin Deck - upgrades available • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board

4 Star MS Switzerland II – Full Board + Drinks + Entertainment

- Rhine New Year Party, 5 days, from £749, 29 Dec 2017

MV Prinses Christina – Full Board + Drinks + Entertainment

- Dutch Bulbfields & Amsterdam Waterways Cruise, 5 days, from £599, 23 April 2018



FREE drinks
Entertainment
Over 40s only
£10pp
deposit

3 nights
half board
PLUS from
£239pp

Isle of Wight Sounds of the 60s Carry on New Year Party

Warner Bembridge Coast, Isle of Wight

Friday 5 January, 2018 - Quote: BE1-KOS

GN Holidays & Voyages are taking over Warner's Bembridge Coast hotel again in early January 2018 - our 10th year in a row. Our must-do annual party, for over 40s only, has guests returning year after year to 'Carry On' celebrating the New Year. With a packed entertainment programme featuring original 60s bands Union Gap UK and The Cufflinks plus Vicki Lambert's tribute to 60s divas, great food, Free drinks from 6pm to midnight nightly, and free car ferry crossing, you're assured a great start to 2018.

INCLUDED: Free drinks 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights standard en-suite chalet - upgrade to main hotel building from £30pp • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free car ferry crossing • Free parking



Half price drinks
Entertainment
Over 40s only
£10pp deposit

3 nights
half board
PLUS from
£159pp

Swinging 60s to Dirty Dancing Summer Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Friday 29 June, 2018 - Quote SP6-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for the ultimate feel good Summer Party - for over 40s only. We will take you back in time for a fun filled, entertainment packed weekend, including Hermans Hermits, Marmalade, The Rag Dolls, Rob Dee as Billy Fury, Dirty Dancing Tribute Show PLUS house band Sounds Imperial. You'll also enjoy half-price drinks all weekend.

INCLUDED: Half-price drinks all weekend - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers lunch times & evenings from Friday night to Sunday night • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - club upgrade available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free car parking

PONTINS

your say...

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 address, although these will be
 withheld in exceptional
 circumstances, and a daytime
 phone number for verification
 (this will not be published). We
 reserve the right to edit all letters.

KCC pay rises are just 'unethical'

THE members of Kent County Council have awarded themselves a 15 per cent increase in allowances, taking the basic to almost £15,000 a year.

This is more than many people earn is wrong, unjustified, self-centred and unethical.

Members should receive expenses only, not pay.

In Dover, there is extreme lawlessness on the streets so much so that one has to vary one's walking routes.

One day, I was walking up Folkestone Road and six adult cyclists came towards me on the pavements at about 10-15mph - it was frightening.

The police ignore dangerous cycling and so many other offences.

Yes, there are less officers, but one sees regularly gross neglect of duty. Discipline in the Kent force appears to be non-existent.

About 20 per cent of all highways drains in the Dover area are blocked with dirt or partly so.

Instead of spending more on themselves, members should be improving such basic services which are now so poor.

Kent County Council is a shadow of its former self and is no longer there to serve the public, but to promote self interest and be indifferent to basic services.

Graham Wanstall,
 Dover Town councillor

Pay hike is a sign of a growing rot

THE increases in payments made to councillors on Kent County Council announced recently is but one stage in a process that has been going on for many years.

When I began work for a local authority over 50 years ago, the councillors received not much more than a genuine reimbursement of essential expenses, but the officers of the council, from the town clerk and borough engineer downwards, were paid good, but fair salaries, reflecting their responsibilities, but not wildly out of line with the rest of the staff.

Since those days we have seen councillors in some parts of the country raking in much more than the average national income, for what is not their main employment, while the obscenely large payments made to so many of the senior officers is a national scandal.

If we want to see the local taxes we pay reflect value for money the first step would be to reduce the disparity between the pay of ordinary workers and that of the magic circle of bosses,

LETTER OF THE WEEK



A2 needs focus now, plus rest of our roads

AT long last we can celebrate a return to normality on the A20 leading into Dover.

Although some work remains to be done, swivel signs are in use to restore the road to the national speed limit when Dover TAP is not live. One might ask why that much could not have been done much sooner, but I guess we're all mostly pleased that it has happened, so well done Highways England, albeit belated.

Therefore we now need to turn attention to the A2. Not just dualling from Lydden Hill to the docks. The Dover Society has submitted a blueprint for a Whitfield eastern by-pass.

The Alliance of British Drivers endorses that idea - we have in fact been suggesting it for years. However, to work it must be part of a larger scheme. From Brenley Corner all the way to the docks, the A2 needs upgrading, especially, in the Dover area, the Deal Road Roundabout, its interface with the

A256 and the docks approach itself.

Further away, Brenley Corner itself needs improvement, some widening of the M2 and getting on with the Lower Thames Crossing.

As the Stanford lorry park slips further into the future, and Brexit draws nearer, the lorry parking and some sort of provision for possible future customs clearance becomes more urgent. I note KCC is to announce possible sites for more smaller lorry facilities around the county. Not before time.

A system to provide speedy and 'frictionless' throughput of freight, as envisaged by Charlie Elphicke MP, looks to have promise - but again, needs to be got on with. I imagine that would also find favour at Eurotunnel and the Port of Dover.

Maybe his idea for a Brexit infrastructure bill might be the only way to stop interminable argument and get things done in time?

Ian Taylor
 Director, Alliance of British Drivers

by significantly reducing payments to the latter.

Of course this is also true throughout the economy where private companies now reward top executives far more than they are worth, and public services such as the NHS spend far too much on managers whose contribution to the effectiveness of the service is minimal.

The recent revelations of the cost of so called talent at the BBC shows just how much the labour market has become distorted in favour of a privileged, overpaid few, but one wonders who among our political class would be prepared to take action

to correct this situation, given that so many of them also benefit from it.

Colin Bullen,
 Tonbridge

Dunkirk isn't as good as the oldies

I WATCHED the new film Dunkirk last weekend, and sat through noisy, wonderfully entertaining war scenes, but I came away feeling something was missing. I even felt bored at one stage.

The story line was not wide enough, with the film starting in

Dunkirk rather than Belgium, where it really all began.

The film should have encompassed the BEF's troops struggle to get to Dunkirk and their commander's predicament, whilst what was happening at home?

I felt the RAF involvement was deliberately overstated. Even something from the French and German perspective would have helped.

Brian Richardson,
 East Farleigh

Great pretenders are failing us

SINCE the government introduced cuts and austerity, they have cut troops, police, border agents, and prison staff, but raised their own salaries by 10 per cent.

Now we find crime has risen and we've become a bigger terrorist target. They know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

The top priority of any government is to protect us and keep us safe.

Obviously they feel nobody will miss losing a few of the 65 million population and that they are of greater value than any of us.

The divide between them and us increases daily, as they totally ignore the pangs of distress and just listen to focus groups, earticklers and brown nosers unconnected to reality. Try writing to Theresa May at al and you'll find what they think of you and your views and concerns!

We live in very perilous times, this country is balanced on a knife edge while the 'great pretenders' ignore all the major issues they should be addressing: immigration, the massive national debt, the NHS, defence, security, the enemy within and indigenous unemployment.

Combined, all these issues will bring us down, if the 'great pretenders' continue to ignore them.

Phil Granger,
 West Malling

A fan of the Duff v Granger battle!

HOW interesting is this contest between Ray Duff and Phil Granger, who both give as good as they get with their opposing views? [KoS letters, ad nauseum].

It seems Mr Duff has also riled other readers too with his rants. Both political parties have made a dog's breakfast of running the country.

There is little to choose between them in my view, now both frightened of their own shadows. Love live Duff versus Granger or vice versa.

John Gamet,
 Walmer

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Margate sunset
by **Dennis Jackson**
from **Cliftonville**

To see your photograph printed, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives.



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Medway

Summer Family Activities



OUTDOOR THEATRE

With Rochester Castle and Upnor Castle as the backdrop, there is no better stage to watch enthralling performances this summer.

3 AUGUST HAMLET AT ROCHESTER CASTLE

For tickets <http://tickets.medway.gov.uk/>

Gates open: 6.15pm; Performance starts: 7.15pm

Hamlet has everything going for him. A wealthy prince living the good life. But when his father dies, his world starts to fall apart.

His mother marries his uncle and Hamlet loses his succession to the throne. He struggles to understand his new world. He faces a difficult choice: to accept it or rebel against it.

Changeling Theatre presents Hamlet - Shakespeare's enduring tale of human mortality and struggle at outdoor venues across Kent this Summer to mark the company's 20th anniversary.

All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

3 AUGUST CHEER UP YORIK! CRAFTS 10.30AM TO 3.30PM

Inspired by Changeling Theatre's performance of Shakespeare's Hamlet, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own Yorik, the famous skull which features in this play, one of Shakespeare's best loved works. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, free entry to Tower Two, Rochester Castle

15 AUGUST WIND IN THE WILLOWS AT UPNOR CASTLE

For tickets <http://www.boxtreeproductions.co.uk/>

Gates open: 5.30pm; Performance starts: 6.30pm

Join Mole as he says 'dang' and 'blast it!', throws down his broom and sets off on an adventure out of his hole. On his journey he meets the effervescent Ratty who shows him the wonders of picnics and messing about on the river, Badger, the wise old sage of the woods and Toad of toad hall, whose exploits cause all manner of mischief and upheaval. When the Otters and Stoats take over Toad Hall it's up to Mole and Ratty, Badger and Toad to retake control. With inventive staging, original songs and magical storytelling we invite audiences to enjoy this classic tale of adventure, friendship and picnics in Boxtree Production's unique and energetic way!

All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

15 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN WIND IN THE WILLOWS CHARACTER CRAFTS, 10.30AM TO 3.30PM

Inspired by Boxtree Production's performance of Wind in the Willows, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from the classic story - who will you choose: Ratty, Mole, Badger or the infamous Toad? Children must be accompanied by an adult. 80p per child, plus admission fee, Upnor Castle

30 AUGUST PRIDE & PREJUDICE AT ROCHESTER CASTLE

For tickets <http://www.chapterhouse.org/>

Gates open: 6.30pm; Performance starts: 7.30pm

Take a step back in time with Chapterhouse Theatre Company to meet Elizabeth Bennet, Jane Austen's most loveable heroine. When Elizabeth meets the rude and abrupt Mr Darcy, she loathes him at first sight. But is there more to him than meets the eye? Brought to life by award winning writer Laura Turner, this brand-new adaptation celebrates the 200th Anniversary of Jane Austen's death and promises to be the most splendid evening of the summer. So, join friends and family as you picnic under a beautiful summer sky and lose yourself in this unforgettable love story. After all, it is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good

fortune must be in want of a wife.

All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

30 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN LIZZIE & DARCY CHARACTER CRAFTS IN TOWER TWO 10.30AM TO 3.30PM

Inspired by Chapterhouse Theatre's performance of Pride & Prejudice, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from this classic story - who will you choose: Lizzie or Darcy?

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, free entry to Tower Two, Rochester Castle

31 AUGUST PETER PAN AT UPNOR CASTLE

For tickets <http://www.chapterhouse.org/>

Gates open: 5.30pm; Performance starts: 6.30pm

Chapterhouse Theatre Company are delighted to present an all new production of Peter Pan. Join Wendy, Michael and John Darling on their adventures with Peter, far away on the magical island of Neverland. There they encounter the enchanting mermaids, magical fairies and the cruellest pirate of them all, Captain Hook. Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French and in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, J.M.Barrie's timeless classic is brought to life in a brand new adaptation by award winning writer Laura Turner, with beautifully designed costumes, music and songs. Join Peter and his friends for what promises to be the most magical evening of the summer.

All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

31 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN PETER PAN CHARACTER CRAFTS IN THE BARRACK BLOCK, 10.30AM TO 3.30PM

Inspired by Chapterhouse Theatre's performance of Peter Pan, written by JM Barrie, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from this classic story - who will you choose: Peter, Wendy, Tinkerbell or Hook?

80p per child, plus admission fee, Upnor Castle



ROCHESTER CASTLE

ROCHESTER CASTLE CELEBRATION TRAIL

Take part in our heritage trail around the keep looking for clues to find out why Rochester Castle is celebrating this year for a chance to win a small prize.

80p per child, plus admission fee.

FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Join our hands-on family craft activity to make your own medieval masterpieces. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, free entry to Tower Two.

MAKE YOUR OWN JESTER'S HAT 1 Aug & 22 Aug

MAKE YOUR OWN KING OF THE CASTLE CROWN 8 Aug & 31 Aug

MAKE YOUR OWN MINI SIEGE ENGINE 10 Aug & 24 Aug

MAKE YOUR OWN SWORD & SHIELD 15 Aug & 29 Aug

MAKE YOUR OWN MEDIEVAL BRACELET 17 Aug

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 August, 10am to 5pm

MEDIEVAL MERRIMENT

Come down to the castle to experience life in medieval times. Walk around the Medieval Siege Society living history camp, and watch in awe as the Trebuchet Siege engine is fired! There will also be men-at-arms, archery & falconry displays, a courtly jester, have-a-go archery, trader's stalls, refreshments and children's crafts.

Free, normal admission applies to the Keep.



UPNOR CASTLE

BATTLE OF MEDWAY TRAIL

Sun 30 July - Sun 3 Sept, 10am-6pm

(last admission 5.15pm)

Take part in our trail around the castle looking for clues to find out what happened at Upnor Castle during the Battle of Medway for a chance to win a small prize.

80p per child, plus admission fee.

DESIGN YOUR OWN BADGE OR MAGNET

with artist Christina Lamb 31 July, 10.30am-3.30pm

Join our drop-in artist-led session to design your own Battle of Medway badge or magnet. All the original stamps are inspired by the Guildhall Museum's collection.

DECORATE A CANNONBALL

Wed 2 Aug, 10.30am -3.30pm

Join our hands-on family craft activity to decorate your own cannonball - get ready to fire it at the Dutch!

MAKE YOUR OWN COLOURFUL CRITTER

Mon 7 Aug, Wed 9 Aug, Mon 14 Aug, Wed 16 Aug, Wed 23 Aug, 10.30am-3.30pm

Join our hands-on family craft activity to make your own Colourful Critter. There are four to collect or you can design your own. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, plus admission fee.

PAINTING THE BATTLE OF MEDWAY

with artist Kevin Clarkson Mon 21 Aug & Wed 30 Aug, 10.30am-3.30pm

Local artist Kevin Clarkson meticulously researched the Battle of Medway to create several new paintings of the events at Upnor in 1667 for our anniversary commemorations this year. Join Kevin on site to draw your own Battle of Medway masterpiece.

BATTLE OF MEDWAY MINI DRAMA SCHOOL

Wed 23 Aug - Thur 24 Aug, 10am -3.30pm

Play on Words presents an amazing opportunity for budding stars of the stage to work with professional actors in a unique venue this Summer Holiday. Over two days you will learn all about creating and acting in a play, and the Mini Drama School will end with a performance for family and friends.

The two-day school costs £40. To book your place, contact info@playonwordstheatre.com or 07971512209

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HOT: Honda Civic Type R arrives at dealers next month



Honda sets benchmark with latest Civic Type R

THE hotly-anticipated high-performance Honda Civic Type R is set to blast on to forecourts next month.

The British-built Civic Type R has got off to a flying start, winning Auto Express best hot hatch and setting a new benchmark time for front-wheel drive cars at the Nürburgring Nordschleife with a development car lapping the famous circuit in seven minutes 43.8 seconds - nearly seven seconds quicker than its predecessor.

Graham Hope, editor at Auto Express, said: "The latest Civic Type R is yet another sensational example of Honda's engineering expertise. As you would expect, it is exciting to drive and thrillingly fast but, importantly, it's also extremely usable on a day-to-day basis, as all the best hot hatches should be. It really does set a new benchmark in its class and is a worthy successor to Honda's great hot hatches of the past."

The new Type R was part of the all-new 10th-generation Civic's development programme - the largest in Honda's history - and was engineered from the ground up to deliver the most rewarding drive in the hot-hatch segment, both on road and on track.

At its heart is the optimised and refined 2.0-litre VTEC turbo petrol engine, producing 320PS



and 400 Newton metres of torque.

New lower gear ratios in the six-speed manual transmission improve acceleration, while a more comprehensive aerodynamic package delivers outstanding high-speed stability.

The entry model costs £30,995 with the GT version £2,000 more while personal contract

purchase (PCP) monthly payments start at £299 on a three-year 5.9 per cent contract.

GT gains blind spot information including cross traffic monitor, dual-zone climate control, auto-dimming rear view mirror, Honda Connect with Garmin Navigation, wireless charging, high power audio and LED front fog lights.



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From **£199** per month*

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 47.1 (6)–52.3 (5.4); extra-urban 62.8 (4.5); combined 55.4 (5.1)–57.6 (4.9). The official CO₂ emissions are 128–114g/km. Figures are obtained for comparative purposes in accordance with EU legislation and may not reflect real-life driving results.

*New Captur Dynamique Nav TCe 90 monthly payment based on £4,103 deposit, 36 monthly payments of £159, optional final payment of £7,078. KADJAR Dynamique Nav TCe 130 monthly payment based on £5,662 deposit, 36 monthly payments of £199, optional final payment of £12,998. Finance offer eligible on all Renault models (excluding Clio Expression) when ordered and registered between 11th July and 30th September 2017. Finance provided by Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. UK residents (excluding Channel Islands) and over 18s only. Subject to status. Indemnities may be required. †Service plan eligible on all Renault models (excluding Twingo & ZOE) when ordered and registered between 11th July and 30th September 2017. The Renault service plan ends when you reach the age or mileage limit (whichever comes first). Services must be carried out in line with the manufacturer's minimum maintenance programme requirements and servicing intervals within +/- 1 month or 1,000 miles of the service interval and can only be carried out at a Renault-approved outlet. The service plan does not cover wear-and-tear items such as (but not limited to) tyres, brakes or wiper blades. Service plan cannot be part exchanged, refunded or transferred. ^To enter the drive of a lifetime competition, book a test drive in a Renault vehicle via renault.co.uk/ultimatestestdrive before 30th September 2017. Eligible entrants must be aged 22–65. For full competition terms and conditions, visit info.renault.co.uk/ultimatestestdrive. 3–2–1 offer applicable to retail customers only. Captur shown with optional i.d. metallic paint and painted roof an extra £1,049. Kadjar shown with optional i.d. metallic paint an extra £650. All-New Koleos shown with optional metallic paint an extra £550.

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Book a test-drive

Prius charges ahead in plug-in stakes

A much-improved plug-in version Toyota's pioneering and popular Prius hybrid will give miles of smiles if you are keen to go green, as Andy Russell finds out

THE trip computer says it all – 305 miles, 191mpg. Welcome to Toyota's new Prius Plug-in.

The telltale giveaways on the outside over the standard Prius hybrid are an extra 'fuel' flap for the plug-in port, four-unit LED headlights and LED tail lights.

Under the skin there's a wealth of new technology, and some world firsts, all designed to improve eco efficiency, more than doubling electric vehicle (EV) range to 30 miles with a larger battery under the boot floor, boosting electric top speed to 84mph with two electric motors – a first for Toyota – and 65 per cent quicker charging so even with a domestic plug socket it takes just over three hours.

The Prius Plug-in is quick off the mark and eerily quiet, apart from some noise from those economy-focused skinny tyres.

The real-world 25-mile range, driven sensibly, was enough for my daily commute, even cruising at 70mph, with eco, normal and power modes. As well as hybrid and EV modes, including a city one to conserve charge, the Prius Plug-in has a battery charging mode using



the engine.

When you run out of charge, the engine cuts in seamlessly, and even with a depleted battery I saw 85mpg with some charge trickling into the battery under braking and slowing.

A solar panel roof is a £1,500

option on Business Edition Plus to charge the 12-volt battery, saving the hybrid system work but, even on sunny days, it gives only up to three more miles EV range.

The suspension has been tuned for the extra weight of the larger battery



and it's reassuring rather than rewarding to drive.

That extra plug-in technology and hardware brings some sacrifices, however – it seats only two, rather than three, in the back and the bigger battery means the boot floor is

Toyota Prius Plug-in

Price: **from £29,195**

Powertrain:
1,798cc, 97bhp four-cylinder petrol engine and 22.5 and 53kW electric motors for total output of 120bhp mated to CVT automatic gearbox

Performance: **0-62mph 11.1 seconds; top speed 112mph**

MPG: **283 combined**

CO2 emissions: **22g/km**

160mm higher so the 360-litre load compartment is shallow.

At the wheel, the futuristic exterior design is carried inside but it's all very logical with the controls and infotainment displays stacked up the centre of the console. It's dominated by a large touchscreen and, beside the digital speedo, a separate data display on which you can access a wealth of statistics about your driving performance, economy and eco credentials.

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Prius Plug-In Hybrid Business Edition Plus 5 door 1.8 VVT-i Auto. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (1/100km): Urban N/A, Extra Urban N/A, Combined 282.5 (1.0). CO₂ Emissions 22g/km. †All mpg and CO₂ figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Model shown is Prius Plug-In Hybrid Business Edition Plus 5 door 1.8 VVT-i Auto at £33,195. Price excludes metallic paint at £545. Prices correct at time of going to print. *Business users only. Initial rental and VAT applies. Available on new leases of model shown when ordered and proposed for finance between 3rd July 2017 and 1st October 2017, registered and financed by 31st December 2017 through Toyota Financial Services on Toyota Contract Hire. Advertised rental is based on a 36 month non-maintained contract at 8,000 miles per annum with an initial rental of £1,734 +VAT. Excess mileage charges apply. Metallic or pearlescent paint are not included. You will not own the vehicle. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Participating Toyota Centres. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC. Registered Office: Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Terms and conditions apply.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of Application to Vary a Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that La Cosa Nostra Cafe Limited has applied to the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on 24th July 2017 to vary the premises licence under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 for use at the premises known as La Cosa Nostra Café, 77 St. Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9TT. The proposed variation is:

Change the Hours of the Licensable Activities:

Retail Sale of Alcohol: Thursday to Saturday 10.00 - 23.30, New Year's Eve 10.00 - 01.30; Late Night Refreshment: Thursday to Saturday 23.00 - 00.00, New Year's Eve 23.00 - 02.00; New Operating Hours: Thursday to Saturday 07.30 - 00.00, New Year's Eve 07.30 - 02.00

The record of this application is held by the Licensing Authority and can be viewed on the website www.sevenoaks.gov.uk or inspected at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Licensing Partnership, P.O. Box 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP during normal office hours.

Any Person wishing to submit representations to the application must do so in writing to the Licensing Authority at the address above, giving in detail the grounds for the objection. Representations must relate to one or more of the Licensing Objectives: Prevention of Crime & Disorder; Prevention of Public Nuisance; Protection of Children from Harm; or Public Safety. Representations must be received by the Licensing Authority no later than 21st August 2017.

The Licensing Authority will have regard to any representations made when considering this application. It is an offence under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to recklessly or knowingly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application. The Maximum Fine on Summary Conviction (Level 5 on the Standard Scale) is Unlimited.

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General Vacancies

QUALIFIED STYLIST REQUIRED

Qualified Stylist required for established salon near Sevenoaks. Existing client base, self employed basis.

Please call Margaret for more information:

01622 730219
(evening)

07534 603722
(day time)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY Treatment Room

to rent in new salon near Sevenoaks, would suit beauty therapist, masseuse etc.

Please call Margaret for more information:

01622 730219
(evening)

07534 603722
(day time)

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Marketing Assistant – Dover

Full Time – 37.5 hours per week **Salary: £21k per annum**
Closing date: On going **Interview date: TBC**

Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE Grade C and above (or equivalent)
- Dealing with local press
- 12 months' experience working in a marketing administration environment
- Social Media marketing experience
- Motivated, with ability to work under pressure
- CMS (Content Management System)
- Hold full, clean driving license, with access to own transport

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: David Osborne on 01304 222679

Pre-Assessment Sister – Margate

Full Time – 37.5 hours per week **Salary: £29,500 per annum**
Closing date: Ongoing **Interview date: TBC**

Qualifications and Experience

- Registered Nurse/ (or equivalent dependent on experience)
- Assessing/Mentoring Course or equivalent (ENB 998)
- Pre-assessment/anaesthetics/recovery/surgical ward experience
- Ability to initiate changes in daily service provision of Pre Assessment
- Able to supervise staff
- Able to demonstrate clinical, technical and teaching expertise

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager on 01843 234569.

For job descriptions and application forms please visit our website: www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Carina Pieries, HR Assistant
Telephone: 01304 222687 E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



34 Dumpton Park Drive, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1BY

Bradstow is a creative and unique all age residential special school registered as a children's home, and maintained by the London Borough of Wandsworth. It is situated in spacious grounds just a few hundred metres from the beautiful beaches of Broadstairs in Kent. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe intellectual disabilities, with associated complex behaviours that challenge. We have achieved international recognition for our Gentle Teaching approaches and business excellence model. The school is judged to be outstanding by Ofsted for care and education.

KEYWORKER – EXTENDED PROVISION

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a student's Keyworker and some management responsibility.
£22,667 - £25,671pa - 41 hours per week. All year round Interviews: 12th September 2017

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – Residential Care

As part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to young people in the residential home. For this role candidates are required to have some experience of care work.
£15,238 – 15,507 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks* Interviews – 18th September

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – Education

These roles involve being responsible for assisting teachers in a classroom setting. Experience in this field is desirable.
£13,936 – £14,182 per annum - 37.5 hours per week (8:30am – 4:30pm Monday – Friday), Term time only, plus 2 weeks* Interviews – 19th September

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends. No experience required, full training will be given.
£11,752 - £12,085 plus 10% per annum – 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends – more hours available)
Term time only, plus 2 weeks* or 15 hours per week part-time pro-rata. Interviews – 18th September 2017

WAKING NIGHT ATTENDANTS

This role involves remaining awake in order to be responsible for the supervision and care of our young people at night, particularly ensuring that night time routines follow pre-agreed strategies and procedures.

£18,070 - £20,138 plus 1/3 per annum – 36.75 hours per week (including weekends)
Term time only plus 2 weeks* and 52 week staff required Interviews: 12th September 2017

GROUNDSPERSON

Working as part of the Maintenance Team, this role involves undertaking routine gardening, security duties, general portering, assist in moving furniture, operating machinery and being aware of Health and Safety responsibilities.

£23,398 - £24,964 – 37 hours per week. All year round Interviews: 25th September 2017

FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

We have some additional opportunities to provide additional cover within either the classrooms or residences on an ad-hoc hourly paid basis, up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends.

Please contact us for further details.

Interviews to be held on an ad-hoc basis

***For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.**

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children. We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk. Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CVs will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is midnight Friday 25th August 2017

Plant blossoms at Royal Birkdale

The 25-year-old has announced plans to turn professional

Golf

By Andy Hampson

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ALFIE Plant has announced plans to turn professional after being formally confirmed as the Open's silver medal winner.

The 25-year-old, who comes from Bexleyheath and previously worked as a postman in Dartford, knew the prize for the leading amateur at Royal Birkdale was his after making the cut on Friday, but he needed to complete all 72 holes to officially secure the gong.

He did so in six over par after shooting 73 in his final round.

Plant - from Sundridge Park Golf Club in Bromley - still has hopes of playing in the Walker Cup in Los Angeles this autumn, but beyond that his ambitions are now in the paid ranks.

He said: "I'll be turning pro in September.

"Hopefully I'm going to be picked for the Walker Cup in September, but then I'll try out for tour school after that.

"You have to go when you're ready and go when you've got some good results behind you. At 25 we've taken our time and I've enjoyed the journey along the way, but I think it's definitely going to be a good journey going forward."

Plant has a number of memories to savour from his week at Birkdale, which has been a family affair with his brother Albert working as his caddy and his father and mentor Darren following every step. His father was also the chief organiser of the large



WINNER: Kent's Alfie Plant is set to turn professional

Pictures: PA WIRE

fan club of family and friends, mostly wearing #TeamAlfie-branded hats and T-shirts, that cheered him around the course.

He said: "As a son at first you get a bit embarrassed, but it's absolutely taken off this week, and hats off to my dad.

"It's been great. I've been getting so much support and I think it's really

made the tournament great for me.

"High of the week has definitely got to be walking down the last. It sent shivers down my spine."

Plant had been staying in a rented house in nearby Formby throughout the week, initially with his father, brother and coach, but that group quickly grew, with some 15 people ending up on sofas and airbeds.

Kerry recovering after heart attack in Africa

Hockey

THE head coach of the England women's hockey team, Danny Kerry, is recovering after suffering a heart attack during a World League Semi Final event in South Africa.

The former Canterbury head coach was rushed to Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg, and he is now returning to the UK for a further period of rest and recovery.

Kerry is expected to return to work in September, with assistant coach David Ralph to step in throughout August, when England defend their EuroHockey Championship title in Amsterdam.

He said: "I would like to give my huge thanks and debt of gratitude to Dr Ramjee and the wonderful staff at



RESTING: Danny Kerry

Milpark for the exceptional care I received whilst in hospital.

"At the same time I wish to place on record my thanks to our team

doctor, Cath Lester, who took me into hospital and liaised with my family, the team and England Hockey back home - I am sure this was not the role Cath signed up for as a sports medic.

"I would also like to convey how proud I am of how both players and staff continued through the tournament in such a professional manner, particularly during the Saturday I was admitted.

"Finally, I look forward to some extended time with my wonderful family and friends, to recovering, and to returning to the role I love in due course."

England Hockey performance director, Ed Barney added: "Danny's health has remained our sole and absolute priority. We wish him the very best over the coming weeks as he continues his recovery."

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

Gills edging closer to picking Doncaster side

GILLINGHAM coach Jamie Day says the club's management team are edging closer to knowing who to pick when the League One season kicks off next weekend.

The Gills recorded an emphatic 4-1 win over Patro Eidsen on Tuesday night as they stepped up their pre-season preparations ahead of the trip to Doncaster on August 5.

Boss Ady Pennock has made a string of new signings to bolster the squad, but has also seen key men like Bradley Dack depart Priestfield over the summer.

As the Gills look to improve on a disappointing last campaign, and compete for promotion to the Championship, Day says everyone in the squad will get a chance over the coming 10 months.

"We have a slight idea of who's done well enough to get a slight nod at the minute, but things can change," he told the club's website.

"Everybody has a rough idea in their head of who they would like to play. It's a long season and everybody we have will play a part in us trying to be successful."



COACH: Jamie Day



HOME: Dartford's Princes Park

Darts cancel friendly as injury fears mount

A GROWING injury crisis has meant Dartford have had to cancel their planned pre-season friendly with Bromley.

Tony Burman's side were due to play the nearby National League side on Tuesday night, but with a number of players unavailable, the club decided to call the game off, insisting having numbers ready for the start of the league season next weekend is its

main priority.

A spokesperson said: "We apologise to Bromley FC for the inconvenience in their own preparation for the season but due to unforeseen circumstances this decision had to be taken."

The Darts kick off their bid for promotion from the National League South on August 5 when Hungerford Town come to Princes Park.

Lashings return to the county

THE all-star international cricketers of Lashings will be playing twice in Kent this week, with a match against a Jewson Celebrity XI on Sunday at Horsmonden Cricket Ground followed by a trip to Addington on Wednesday.

Lashings will be coached by West Indies legend Gordon Greenidge, with the line-up set to feature a host

of stellar names, including John Emburey, Devon Malcolm, Wasim Jaffer, Chris Lewis and former Kent T20 hero Yasir Arafat.

Former Charlton Athletic players Steve Gritt and John Salako are rumoured to be in contention for the Jewson XI and Derry Mensah of X Factor and Boyband is also set to play.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:



Twitter @KentSport



Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

German Bierfest Ashford

11th, 12th, 13th of August

Bierfest:

General Admission Free all days:

Includes admission to the event including the German Village, Sekt Garden, Bier Garden and the FunTime area except the Bavarian FestTent. No ticket need to be booked up front.

FestTent *(Limited Availability)*

£5 EARLY BIRD TICKET:

includes a reserved seat in the Bavarian FestTent (seated together) & half-pint FestBier

£20-25 BIER TICKET:

INCLUDES: A guaranteed reserved seat in the Bavarian FestTent (seated together), one stein (2 pint) of FestBier and a nice food plate with Bavarian-style sausage and an Underberg (digestif). Ticket may also access the free part of the event.

£30-35 VIP TICKET:

Includes priority VIP entrance and a guaranteed reserved seat in the VIP area of the Bavarian FestTent with 1 glass of Schlumberger sekt, a Stein (2 pint) of Bier (select between Bavarian Weißbier, Bavarian Festbier, Bavarian Craftbier), a nice food plate with Bavarian-style chicken and a Underberg (digestif).

Corporate?

For corporate offers
please contact
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